

Urriage



THE INDEPENDENT

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THE INDEPENDENT
DAILY
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Glorious Twelfth (unless you happen to be a grouse)

Alexandra Williams

Speed and taste rather than looks are the downfall of the grouse and the reason that 400,000 are shot each year.

The ruby birds have small heads, short necks and feathered toes and have been likened to under-cooked Christmas puddings. But they are perfect competition for shotgun-toting sportsmen and women, for they soar through the air at 60mph and once on the plate are a superb accompaniment to a fine bottle of Claret.

Grouse-shooting begins today, on "the Glorious Twelfth" of August, the most high-profile date in the British shooting calendar. The season lasts until 10 December.

The origin of the name grouse is an old French word, *griseche*, which means "grey" or "speckled". It became modified to grow by Henry VIII in 1531.

The first recorded instance of grouse driving was not until 1805 at Cannon Hall, Barnsley. Thirty years later, drives had become a regular feature of shooting, and by 1843 a bag of 50 brace a day was not uncommon.

The term "Glorious Twelfth" was coined in the 1880s, after the Government made a law banning grouse shooting until that date. Young birds born in May were not considered good sport before then.

The last good season for grouse was 1975. In 1977, stocks crashed and it was not until 1981 that there was a small recovery.

The average annual bag in Scotland is 200,000, and 400,000 for Britain as a whole, although the number of grouse shot on managed moors has fallen by an average of 40 per cent over the past 40 years.

The best years for red grouse were 1911, 1934, 1963, 1965 and 1974 and the worst was 1917, after the parasitic gutworm *Trichostrongylus tenuis*, poor weather and other diseases took their toll.

There are 459 grouse moors in Britain, covering 4.1 million acres. Last year, many landowners did not allow shooting in order to conserve stocks and continue to allow them to regenerate.

Although blood sports enthusiasts have been finching recently at a wave of popular and political disapproval of their hobby, the atmosphere among grouse shooters is one of cheery optimism this year.

Janet George, spokeswoman for the British Field Sports Society, said: "It looks as if it's going to be the best season for five years."

The shooters' relief is tinged with concern for the future: "The Government has no understanding of field sports and are threatening to review shot-gun certificates. Soon it could be only the police and criminals who have guns."

Dick Playfair, spokesman for the Scottish Landowners' Federation, said: "We are optimistic for a good season this year. It's still an expensive sport but it's not the elitist sport it once was. The image of tweeds and privilege is dated."

But at £500 a day, some may beg to differ. At the bottom end of the scale, an informal day out costs £45 a brace and typically one is likely to net 10 to 15 brace a day. A driven shoot, however, demands more than £100 a brace and between 60 to 100 brace can be expected. Some prefer to pay a flat fee of £6,000 a day.

Game shooting is worth £80m a year to Scotland, £50m more than the Edinburgh Festival. Many of those who grouse shoot are foreigners and as little as 10 per cent are Scottish.

Although it is predominantly a male sport, women can be spotted on the moors shooting and helping with the loading. As one woman put it: "If you do badly men despise you. If you shoot well they hate you."



Roll out the double-barrel: Gamekeeper Calum Kippen cleans his equipment in readiness for the big day

Photograph: John Paul

Tory grammar tests put on ice

Judith Judd
Education Editor

Ministers yesterday put off the introduction of compulsory grammar tests for 14-year-olds while government curriculum advisers carry out a fundamental review of English testing.

The decision is a victory for English teachers who campaigned fiercely against the tests, introduced by the previous government, and threatened a boycott if they remained unchanged.

The first pilots were held last term and Conservative ministers intended all 14-year-olds to take separate grammar tests from next year.

Gillian Shephard, the former secretary of state for education, had insisted the grammar tests were vital because of complaints from employers and the public about sloppy language.

Tory education ministers waged a long-running battle with teachers who opposed English tests for 14-year-olds when they were introduced four years ago.

A review of the national curriculum and testing to begin next year will look at English

teachers' objections to how both Shakespeare and reading and writing are tested at the age of 14.

Teachers say that Shakespeare should be tested through coursework marked by teachers, not by an end-of-course exam, and that grammar should be tested through pupils' writing, not by separate tests.

Baroness Blackstone, the education minister, announced that the Conservative plans for mental arithmetic tests at ages 11 and 14 would go ahead but there would be further English pilot tests for 14-year-olds including grammar, spelling and punctuation.

She said: "These tough new tests will be a challenge for teachers and pupils which we are confident they can meet. The changes will help us to continue our drive to raise school standards."

A spokeswoman for the Department for Education said that the pilot tests had thrown up some problems so ministers had decided to extend the pilot.

The decision was taken on the advice of the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority.



Baroness Blackstone: Tough new tests will be a challenge

not confident about teaching sentence structure in grammar.

Bethan Marshall, of the National Association for the Teaching of English, welcomed the Government's decision.

"The tests have been a complete fiasco in two of the last three years," she said. "They are not a true test of pupils' ability and disadvantage bright pupils."

Ministers also announced a review of national education and training targets after they received a warning that two of the present targets are too ambitious.

Under the targets, adopted by the previous government, three-quarters of 19-year-olds and 35 per cent of 21-year-olds are to reach the required level in literacy, numeracy and information technology by 2000.

The body which sets national targets says in its annual report that Britain will need longer than expected to ensure that these two targets are achieved.

Current figures for the two age groups are 9.7 and 0.4 per cent. The report says IT skills present a particular problem.

The National Advisory Council for Education and

Training Targets also says that the target for 60 per cent of the workforce to have two A-levels or the vocational equivalent will have to be postponed.

The advisory council believes that other targets - 85 per cent of 19-year-olds to achieve five good GCSEs or the vocational equivalent, and 60 per cent of 21-year-olds to have two A-levels or the vocational equivalent by 2000 - are achievable.

However, the report says that the figures are "challenging" and "the right action must be taken urgently to raise attainment levels further".

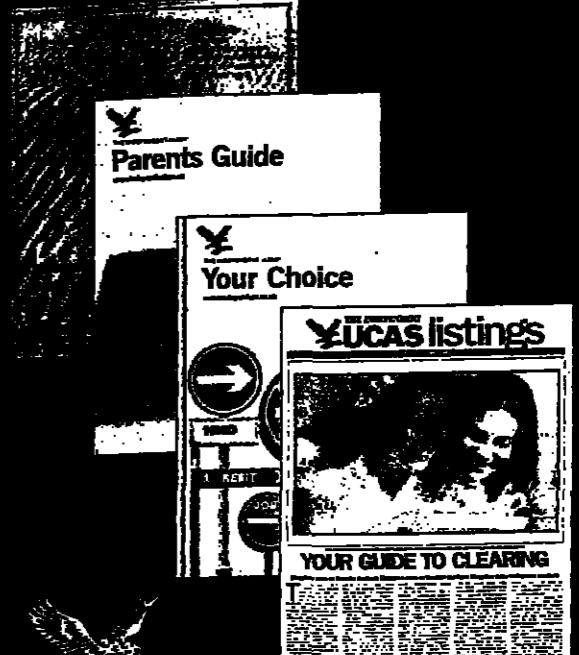
Baroness Blackstone said:

"We have already set targets for improvements in literacy and numeracy for 11-year-olds - we now need to identify targets for the other main areas of education and skills attainment where we all feel we need to do better."

Dick Chorley, the advisory council's director, said that good progress had been made towards the targets. "We are saying that the majority of the targets can be reached."

"We knew when we set them in spring 1995 that they were going to be challenging."

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This week *The Independent* is the ONLY newspaper to publish the full official lists of university and college vacancies. Supplied by UCAS (the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service), they begin with the A level results on Thursday and continue regularly until 15 September. They come with our best-ever selection of special publications to help students and parents through the next crucial weeks.

TOMORROW we will be giving away a magazine called *Which Way?* - published with UCAS and crammed with advice.

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The best of hospitality for tourist who became a hostage to good fortune

Andrew Marshall

Being kidnapped is a traumatic, unpleasant and disturbing experience - except in Yemen, it would seem.

An Italian tourist who emerged from captivity yesterday could not have been more delighted. Giorgio Bonanomi, 49, was released on Sunday night after five days as a hostage.

While in captivity he was fed with the tastiest morsels of local food, kept clean and allowed to write letters to his girlfriend. "They treated me very well, always leaving me the best things to eat," he added.

"I am perfectly fine. I was never afraid for a moment, and

it was a very interesting experience," Mr Bonanomi told the Italian news agency Ansa. "We have another seven days here and I certainly don't want to miss them."

"Yemen is a beautiful country and all I was a guest, even if an enforced one, of very interesting people."

Yemen, a mountainous and green corner of the Arabian peninsula which the Romans named Arabia Felix, is one of the wildest places on earth. It is partly inhabited by heavily armed tribesmen for whom a Kalashnikov hardly counts as a serious weapon; rocket-propelled grenades and heavy machine guns are ubiquitous, and

some tribes run to tanks and heavy artillery.

Tribal groups have regularly seized hostages, either as pawns in internal battles, or to win concessions from the government and oil companies.

But they are nearly always treated with scrupulous hospitality. One diplomat returned from captivity some years ago with his sole complaint that he had been pined with too much Johnny Walker Black Label.

Americans, French, Saudis, Italian and Germans have been seized over the past few years, but all hostages have so far been released unharmed.

Mr Bonanomi, a 49-year-old graphic artist, was freed after a standoff between the government and members of the Dhabian tribe in the remote and mountainous east of the country, not far from the site of what was once the palace of the Queen of Sheba.

He was travelling with six other tourists when the armed kidnappers stopped their four-wheel vehicle at a desert road block.

He apparently regarded his sojourn in the desert as a highly-desirable optional trip, and said he would continue with his holiday.

"Too bad it's not possible to organise holidays like this, because it was fantastic," he said.

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Paedophile register
The police are to get new powers to warn local communities about sex offenders in their area. But their scope will be limited for fear of vigilante action. Page 8

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significant shorts

Two killed as helicopter crashes near motorway

Two men died after a helicopter crashed beside the M6 in north Lancashire yesterday. Police said the small helicopter had landed upside down and the rotor blade of the helicopter was believed to have come detached and landed on the M6 southbound carriageway at junction 35, near Carnforth. Around 20 firefighters were at the scene trying to bring burning wreckage under control. Eyewitnesses spoke of one body lying in the field while another was trapped in the cockpit.

Police were still trying to determine the helicopter's flight plan but it was believed to have come from the South Yorkshire area.

Caring parents to challenge council

The parents of a severely disabled teenager have the power to challenge the number of relief breaks they are allocated by their local authority, the High Court ruled yesterday.

Stuart Jagger and his wife Susan, who are both in their 50s and seriously ill themselves, look after their 16-year-old son Michael, a cerebral palsy sufferer who is wheelchair-bound and needs constant attention and supervision. The family is allocated a certain amount of respite care, whereby Michael is looked after away from the home, but Calderdale Metropolitan Council in West Yorkshire has now decided to cut the provision by about 30 per cent. Mr and Mrs Jagger claim the council's action is unlawful. The judge granted leave to challenge the authority's decision and ordered that a full hearing should be held as soon as possible. **Glenda Cooper**

Policeman held in hunt for drugs cash

A serving police officer has been arrested in connection with multimillion profit believed to have been accrued by a convicted drugs trafficker, police disclosed yesterday.

The officer, from the Greater Manchester force, was suspended from duty after his arrest following raids on Mensey side on 31 July. He was one of six people rounded up by officers trying to trace the estimated £180m fortune of international drugs baron Curtis Warren, who is currently serving 12 years in a Dutch jail for conspiracy to supply drugs. The officer and five others taken into custody were released on police bail until November pending further inquiries.

Blur singer in radio tribute to Orton

Damon Albarn of the Britpop band Blur is among the cast of the first production of a Joe Orton script originally written for The Beatles. It is being broadcast on Radio 3 to mark the 30th anniversary of the playwright's death. The Beatles' managers commissioned the script for *Up Against It* and then rejected it because the plot associated them with murder and adultery. In a macabre twist, Orton had an appointment on 9 August 1967 to see film-maker Richard Lester about salvaging the screenplay – but the chauffeur sent to pick him up found him and his lover Kenneth Halliwell dead. The play will be broadcast on 21 September.

Mother killed in horror smash

Two women died and a baby was critically hurt yesterday when a car swerved off the road and rammed a family walking with a pushchair.

The 80-year-old woman driver probably had a heart attack and died before crashing into mother Jill Wilson, 34, who was with her two young children in Fleet, Hampshire, police said. Four-month-old Anthony Wilson was thrown out of his buggy but the car missed his sister Victoria, aged two. The vehicle ploughed on for 500 yards, carrying Mrs Wilson on its bonnet, before coming to a halt when it hit another vehicle, whose driver was unhurt by the impact. The car driver was named as Winifred Fletcher, of Fleet.

Police to face death-crash charges

Two police officers are to face disciplinary charges after an innocent motorist and a policeman were killed during a 100mph pursuit of a stolen car.

The Independent Police Complaints Authority yesterday disclosed that two West Midlands Police officers, one who was in the force information room and the other in the divisional information room during the pursuit, will face charges of neglect of duty after the incident in December 1995. Neil Homer, 20, of Oldbury, died after his car was hit by a police car that had sped through red traffic lights. Panda car passenger PC Robert Dallow, 41, was also killed. The driver, PC Leslie Collins, 45, was jailed for three months for causing death by dangerous driving; the 16-year-old driver of the stolen car was sentenced to 12 months' custody.

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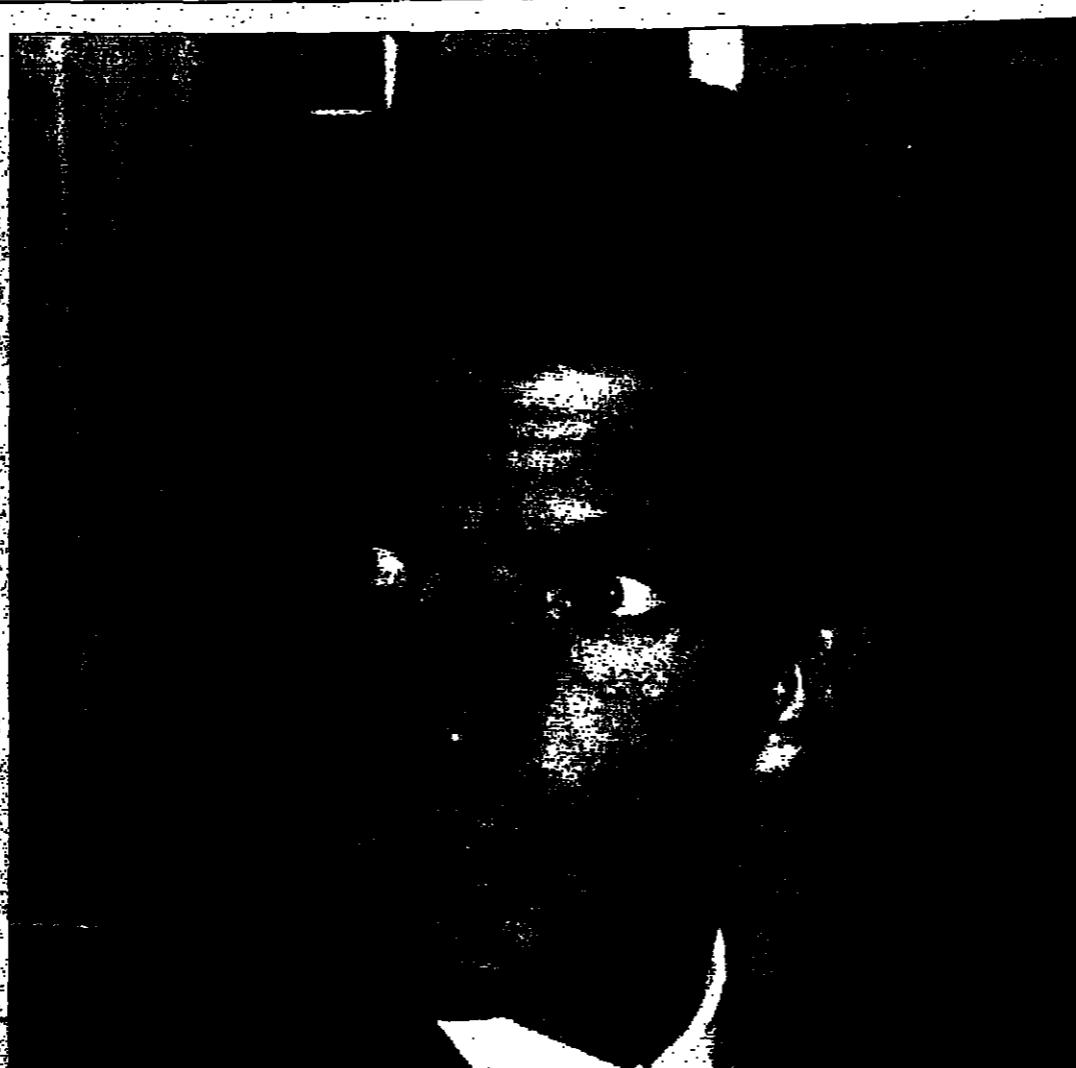
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people



By George: John Kennedy Jr, once dubbed the world's sexiest man

JFK Jr scorns the black sheep of the Kennedy clan

John F. Kennedy Jr has shown once more that no one understands the commercial draw of his name better than himself.

Last year, he launched a glossy political monthly, *George*, and made sure the world knew that he was its editor. Now he has taken to writing in its pages about the Kennedy clan.

In next month's issue, which will be dedicated to women, New York's most talked-about editor (save, perhaps, for our own Tina Brown) wags a "you-should-know-better" finger at two of the Camelot clan for having succumbed to the temptations of the flesh, to the considerable detriment of their marriages.

Sales of the latest issue will doubtless be fuelled further by an accompanying Garden-of-Eden portrait of JFK Jr, sitting cross-legged and looking longingly at an apple suspended above him. Shadows are artfully cast across the lower contours of his still-beefy torso.

The targets of his newly self-righteous pen are his cousins, the sons of the assassinated Bobby Kennedy: Joe Kennedy, a Democrat representative in Washington;

and his younger brother, Michael Kennedy. The two, JFK suggests, have become America's favourite "poster boys for bad behaviour".

Both Kennedys have indeed been in the headlines recently.

Joe was pilloried by his ex-wife, Sheila, because of his efforts to have their 12-year marriage annulled by the Catholic Church. Michael was accused earlier this year of bedding his family's babysitter – beginning when she was just 14-years-old.

The pair, JFK Jr opines, stumbled by chasing "an idealised alternative to their lifestyle. One left behind an embittered wife, and another in what looked to be a hedge against mortality, fell in love with youth".

Of the media brouhaha, he adds: "Perhaps they deserved it: Perhaps they should have known better. To whom much is given, much is expected, right?"

Sales of September's *George* are sure to be healthy, but if there are any beach reunions planned for the extended Kennedy family this summer, JFK Jr may want to consider staying away.

David Usborne, New York

I'm not a good actress, admits Sandra Bullock

Sandra Bullock, star of *Speed 2*, believes she is not a talented actress and that people only think she is special because her movies make millions, she said yesterday.

The modest millionairess has reportedly been paid £9m to re-create the role of the Los Angeles girl she played opposite Keanu Reeves in the original *Speed*.

But yesterday she admitted having turned down many film roles, because she is not good enough to play them. "I've turned down some scripts that I thought were wonderful but I knew I wasn't capable of executing them. Just because your film makes money people think you can act," she said.

"I've been sent scripts that were amazing, but I knew I couldn't do them in a million years. I wasn't talented enough or wasn't emotionally equipped.

"It is really hard to reject something, but I'd rather watch someone else make a great film.

"I'd rather an incredibly talented actress went in and did a great job than me go in a screw up a great



script," she added during a news conference at the Dorchester Hotel in Park Lane, London.

Speed marked her breakthrough in 1994, but Bullock was not first choice for the part.

The film's producers had originally wanted Julia Roberts for the role of Annie Porter, but they regarded the fee she demanded as excessive. Bullock was paid £300,000 for the role, while Roberts reportedly asked for £8m.

Speed 2: Cruise Control, which also stars Jason Patric and Willem Dafoe, opens across Britain on Friday.

Hinkes flies home after ordeal

Alan Hinkes, the British mountaineer, arrived home yesterday and vowed to continue his attempt to become the first Briton – and only the sixth person in the world – to climb all 14 of the world's mountains over 8,000 metres.

Hinkes, 43, was stranded on a Himalayan mountain for more than a week with a slipped disc, after the flour on a chapati made him sneeze while he was halfway up the 8,128m (26,660ft) Nanga Parbat in Pakistan. After enduring a week in which he could barely move, he was eventually evacuated by helicopter.

Yesterday he tucked into a more familiar meal, fish and chips, and insisted that he would renew his efforts to climb the last 5 of the 14 once he is fit again.

He has already conquered the two highest, Everest and K2, but admitted his embarrassment at being laid low by a humble chapati.

"I was in bad shape anyway because my body was starting to waste away. At the time I thought I was dying. I was stuck for about a weekend. I was beginning to get a bit worried."

Charles Arthur

briefing

WESTMINSTER

Parliamentary reporters at risk of losing their hearing

Listening to noisy MPs can damage your health. Many have long suspected it was so, but research has now highlighted the potential risks of listening to too many politicians' speeches. The official *Hansard* reporters, who spend hours transcribing tape recordings of MPs in debate, are in danger of losing their hearing.

Investigations showed that too many of the reporters, who produce the official record of proceedings in Westminster, were spending too long with their headphones turned up too high.

This raised the risk of hearing problems or tinnitus – regardless of the political persuasion of the speaker, according to the researcher, Dr Mike Lower of the University of Southampton's Institute of Sound and Vibrations.

"It doesn't matter what the content is, whoever they happen to represent or whether they are pleasant or unpleasant," he said.

It is well-established that loud noise can damage hearing, but little research has been done on the effect of noise through headphones. It is thought they might amplify sounds to risky levels.

Louise Jury

SCIENCE

Chemical linked to aggression

Violent behaviour in young men seems to be linked to an imbalance of body chemistry – the ratio of copper and zinc in the blood plasma, according to American scientists, whose research was published yesterday. Associated work found that returning this ratio to its usual value was linked with improved behaviour.

William Walsh, president of the Health Research Institute in Naperville, Illinois, reports the findings of the small-scale study, which examined 153 males aged between three and 20, in the US journal *Physiology and Behavior*. "Our preliminary findings show that young men who have varying levels of angry, violent behaviour also have elevated copper and depressed zinc levels," he writes. By contrast, the non-violent control group had normal levels.

Zinc is an essential trace element, which plays a role in disorders such as the skin conditions such as acne and eczema.

"This data suggests that violent behaviour is one of those [zinc-related] disorders," said Dr Walsh. Other studies have also found that behaviour improves when the ratios are returned to "normal" values using zinc and other nutrients, he added.

Charles Arthur



MEDICINE

Caffeine may aid cancer treatment

Caffeine could offer doctors a powerful new weapon for fighting a major killer cancer, it is reported today. Laboratory experiments show that caffeine improves the effectiveness of radiotherapy on large bowel cancer cells by up to 150 per cent.

The amount of caffeine needed to reproduce the same effect in patients would poison the nervous system. But scientists at Bristol University are trying out other caffeine-like chemicals in the hope that they will be both effective and safe.

The new research, funded by the Cancer Research Campaign, involves adding caffeine to cancer cells immediately after they are exposed to radiation.

Both radiotherapy and chemotherapy treatments work by damaging the DNA of cancer cells so that they self-destruct. Bowel cancer cells are particularly resistant to these treatments because they effectively repair the DNA and do not die. Caffeine appears to prevent the cells repairing the damage caused by radiotherapy. In the tests, it dramatically increased the number of cells made to self-destruct.

BROADCASTING

Creating a new identity is easy

For those looking to emulate Edward Fox in *The Day of The Jackal*, it is still possible to obtain a passport using a dead person's birth certificate and effectively create a false identity, according to a Channel 4 documentary.

But the programme's director, Elizabeth Allen, said it would be deliberately vague about how to go about getting a false passport, to stop the programme being a "how-to" guide.

But she said the idea of creating a new identity seemed popular after she advertised for people to take part in the programme: "It was rather depressing. We had a staggering response. Mainly they were people who want to escape their domestic situation or debts."

Good and Gone is to be screened at 11pm on 18 August, as part of Channel 4's *Renegade* TV season.

Paul McCann

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Welsh feed: Farmers bringing their sheep down from the Black Mountains in Powys for dipping after their summer months on common land where environmentalists claim overgrazing - by as many as ten sheep to the acre instead of three - is ruining the moors. Photograph: David Hurst

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Minister gives BP profits to private school

Lucy Ward
Education Correspondent

Lord Simon of Highbury and Canbury is to donate profits from the sale of his BP shares to fund places at an independent school, just as the Government is abolishing state subsidies for private education.

The move will provide further ammunition for Conservatives keen to capitalise on damage caused to the Government by the shares controversy.

Though the donation is a personal decision, it exposes clear differences in attitudes to private education between a minister and the Government.

Lord Simon, the Minister for

Trade, who announced last week he was selling his £2m shares in BP following Opposition allegations of conflict of interest, is to divide an estimated profit of £350,000 among a number of charities, including his old school, Christ's Hospital.

The West Sussex school, founded in 1552 to care for London's poor, uses income generated through its ancient investments and property holdings and donations from benefactors to subsidise education for bright children from poorer families.

The minister's gift, which will be used to provide more financial assistance for pupils, comes as legislation abolishing the assisted places scheme reaches the Statute Book.

The Government plans to use £160m, saved by phasing out the scheme, to cut infant class sizes. It has pledged to keep classes for five, six and seven-year-olds to a maximum of thirty pupils.

When Tory peers attempted to overturn part of the plans, the Government dismissed their arguments as "privilege deferring privilege".

Lord Simon declined to comment last night. The Department for Trade and Industry

said the minister had given his wife full responsibility for selecting charities to benefit from the charitable trust fund being set up on his behalf by a London bank.

Lord Simon, 56, won a scholarship to Christ's Hospital in 1950, and was made head boy in 1958. He already gives financial support to two pupils at the school, where all 800 places are assisted to some degree and 38 per cent of parents pay no fees at all.

David Bridges, partnership director at Christ's Hospital, said the school had 62 places paid for by the Government under the assisted places scheme. The scheme is being phased out after this year.

Another charity chosen by Lord Simon's wife to benefit from the shares profits is the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund. Lord Simon's late father Roger was a spitfire pilot and veteran of hundreds of wartime missions.

Mr Bridges said yesterday he did not yet know the extent of Lord Simon's donation to Christ's Hospital. He added: "We surmise that it will be to fund places in the school for one or more pupils in the future."

Violence in the home to be reviewed

Colin Brown
Chief Political Correspondent

A Government review of action to combat domestic violence is being carried out across Whitehall departments following fears that there could be substantial under-reporting of attacks on women in the home.

Joan Ruddock, the Minister for Women, has taken charge of the review covering all the key Government departments to establish whether the Government could do more to tackle domestic violence, and bring offenders to trial.

It follows a meeting with Home Office minister Alun Michael, who is reviewing police guidelines and the collection of statistics on the extent of violence in the family.

Domestic violence is not a legally defined offence, and the police are not currently required to identify domestic violence incidents in their statistical returns to the Home Office, or to record the relationship between the victim and the offender.

Mr Michael told Paul Flynn, the Labour MP, that the Government was committed to tackling domestic violence on every front. "We are currently examining the policies operating in this area, with a view to ensuring that we have an effective strategy against domestic and sexual violence."

Mr Flynn last night called for domestic violence to be made a legally defined offence. He also said ministers should review the provision of battered women's refuges.

Domestic violence is seen by Shelter as one of the main reasons for homelessness among

young people and women. But ministers admit that it is "difficult to assess exactly how many cases of domestic violence occur in England and Wales."

Ms Ruddock's review will cover the action taken in 1995 by the Tory Government to co-ordinate measures across Whitehall with an inter-departmental committee on domestic violence.

The Home Affairs Select Committee found in 1993 that the police response to domestic violence had improved, and called for a national campaign against domestic violence.

The Home Office issued a circular in 1995 which said that domestic violence was difficult to report "due to the emotional relationship between the victim and the perpetrator": there was a fear of reprisals and a tendency among the victims to minimise rather than exaggerate the violence to hide it from families and friends. Often victims were pressured by their family to remain in the relationship, or were financially dependent on the offenders.

The circular said: "Repeated abuse may undermine a woman's confidence in her ability to take decisions and act."

The Government said its approach was based on the premise that domestic violence was "a serious crime which must not be tolerated. The priority must be to stop the violence occurring."

The 1994 British Crime Survey said there were around 1.1 million incidents in 1993, making domestic violence the most common form of assault, but only around one quarter of the incidents of domestic violence were reported.

DAILY POEM

As of now

By Dom Moraes

Time has passed, she hasn't come.
Once there were guns and betrayals.

In the delta, stained bodies of men
earned my typewriter a banner by-line.

Once there were airplanes to adventure:
unheard rivers, unfound parts of myself,
accidentally come upon; the lost tribes,
the rescued prisoners; once there were
orchids in mountains, and promises:
the delicate appraisals made by death.

Once the moon watched, in five continents,
my beds rumppled by women, not by love.

Now why should the absence of one woman
interpose itself between the moon and me?

This poem comes from the latest issue of the *London Magazine* (£7.95), edited by Alan Ross. Celebrating 50 years of Indian independence, it embraces new fiction, verse, essays, memoirs, photographs and reviews. Subscriptions to the *London Magazine* cost £28.50 per year from 30 Thurloe Place, London SW7.

try reporters & their hearing

Last reel for Puttnam as he begins mission to educate



Ian Burrell

Within days of his elevation to the House of Lords, David Puttnam has completed his transformation from movie mogul to Government mover and shaker by signalling his intention to stop making films altogether.

Lord Puttnam, the producer of *Chariots of Fire*, *Memphis Belle* and *The Mission*, has said that he wants to concentrate on helping to re-shape the industry so as to provide better training and education for future British film makers.

The producer was recently appointed to head a new Government task force for the creative industries, which is aimed at getting the most from young British talent.

In an interview with the *Los Angeles Times*, Lord Puttnam said: "I'm very keen to move my centre of gravity away from the movie business to what I call the education business. The next big industry that will be affected by the cinema industry is education. In areas like this we're good at creating but bad at exploiting."

Lord Puttnam has been gradually distancing himself from Hollywood since he returned to

Britain, disillusioned by his experience at the helm of Columbia Pictures.

He recently produced a book, *The Undeclared War*, in which he called on Britain and Europe to break the America's stranglehold of film-making.

In another recent interview, he indicated his annoyance at the lack of altruism among his film industry peers. He said: "Everyone always asks, 'What's in it for me?' and this really depresses me."

His own reluctance to cash in on his success has meant that he has had to live a more humbler lifestyle than other movie moguls. Last September he was obliged to sell Kingsmead Mill, his house in Wiltshire, for a reported £3m to James Dyson, the vacuum cleaner tycoon.

But Lord Puttnam, who has north London working-class roots, has become a fervent Labour supporter.

Although he was active in the SDP in the 1980s, he forged links with Labour during an eight-year campaign for film industry tax breaks.

After Neil Kinnock's general election defeat in 1992, the film-maker was quick to offer a job to the Labour leader's ad-

visor John Newbiggin.

Since the election he has twice visited Downing Street to be feted by Gordon Brown and Tony Blair, and was made a Labour peer earlier this month.

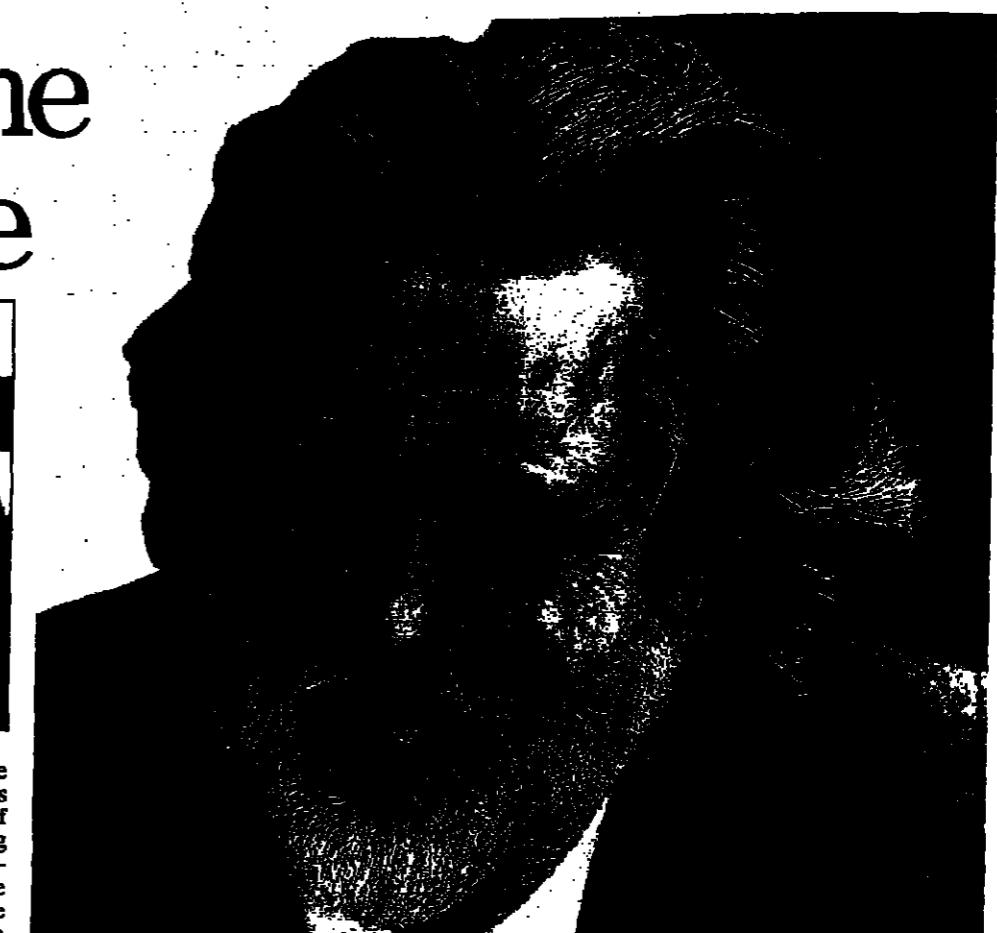
Mr Kinnock's daughter, Rachel, is production co-ordinator of Puttnam's current

movie, *World of Moss*, which will be one of four he will make before he finally takes his bow.

The other films are the musical *Serenade*, *A Very Long Engagement*, which is set in the Great War, and *Rudeous* about a Czech actress during the war.

After which, Lord Puttnam

will be able to devote his time to creating the right conditions for the emergence of a string of new Puttnams. "It's a young man's game," he said in the interview. "And unless you're prepared to believe in all the bullshit there's a certain way in which you can't do it."



Lord Puttnam: "I'm keen to move my centre of gravity away from the movie business"

From Bugsy to Killing Fields

Lord Puttnam, 56, began his career in advertising and photography before making his name in 1976 as the producer of *Bugsy Malone*, a gangster spoof with the parts played by children.

The following year he produced *The Duellists*, which won a Jury prize at Cannes, and paved the way for *Midnight Express*, which won two Academy awards in 1978 for its depiction of prison hell and *Chariots of Fire*, which won four academy awards in

1981 and was based on the race for Olympic gold in 1924.

After *Local Hero*, the story of an American executive in a Scottish village, and *Cal*, a Northern Ireland love story, his career reached new pinnacles with *The Killing Fields* (1985), which depicted the horrors of war in Cambodia, and *The Mission* (1986), a story of 18th century Jesuit priests in South America. Recent works have included *Memphis Belle* (1990) and *Le Confessional* (1995).

Prescott calls in to say: I'm in charge

Colin Brown
Chief Political Correspondent

John Prescott yesterday showed he was in charge of the Government by telephoning a live BBC radio programme to intervene in a row over immigration visas for a group of trainee priests.

"Presco", as the deputy Prime Minister is known by Tony Blair, has been overshadowed by Peter Mandelson, the Government's "spin-doctor-in-chief", since they were left in charge by the Prime Minister when he went on holiday to Italy nine days ago.

Mr Mandelson has taken the spotlight in recent days, appearing for the Government on a range of issues, including the sale of Lord Simon's shares, the Royal Yacht and the inquiry into allegations that Chris Patten leaked details of a secret deal between London and Peking.

Mr Prescott yesterday interrupted the BBC Today programme after hearing a report over breakfast that the trainee priests were being refused entry because of problems over visa clearance. It is understood that he was at Dorneywood, a Government country house, and checked with Downing Street before calling the programme.

The priests, from Africa and Asia, are studying in Belgium and wanted to come to the UK for up to eight weeks for work experience and to act as holiday relief for British priests.

The decision to refuse them entry was described by a London priest as "naive ... stupid ... sheer ignorance ... bad manners ... something they (the authorities) should be ashamed of".

Father Kit Cunningham, of St

Ethelreda's, Holborn, in central London, said it was "naive and stupid" on the part of Foreign Office officials to suggest they would overstay their visas.

"The idea is just so ludicrous that these men should come over, get lost, then reappear as tobacconists in Luton. The mind just boggles."

Mr Prescott telephoned the programme and ordered an immediate inquiry at the Foreign Office. "There might be a perfectly good reason but I'm not yet satisfied that there is," he said.

"If this story is right, there seems to be a certain amount of injustice. Here's people wanting to come to Britain. University students studying Theology."

The Foreign Office last night said the decision to refuse visas was being "urgently" reviewed by the British consul, who was contacting the trainee priests for more information about the purpose of their visit.

"If, as a result, he is satisfied that their applications now fall within the immigration Rules, visas will be issued," said a Foreign Office spokesman.

Mr Mandelson, who is running for election to the party's national executive committee at the Party conference in October, will be able to steal back the limelight on Thursday. He is planning to deliver a Fabian Society lecture which will invoke the spirit of Lady Thatcher.

He is expected to say: "We obviously didn't agree with her vision in 1979, but she knew what she wanted to achieve. Tony Blair has got to put in place the same rock-hard determination to tackle the social ills and economic causes of social exclusion."

Leading article, page 13

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news

Troubled council suspends third officer

Christian Wolmar
Westminster Correspondent

The Planning Director of Doncaster Council has been suspended following allegations of improper relations between the council and developers.

David Ellis, the Planning Director since 1987, was the third officer to be suspended by the beleaguered council after allegations of misconduct by both officers and councillors emerged in February this year in a district auditor's report. Mr Ellis's suspension on full pay follows a similar move taken against his assistant, Graham Raynor, last week.

Five councillors have also been suspended by the national Labour Party as well as the local district party at the end of last month in what has become known locally as 'Donnygate'.

The suspension of the district party means that council candidates for next May's elections will be selected by the national, rather than the local, party. Events in Doncaster are a continuing embarrassment to the Labour Party which has sought to avoid the type of sleaze which engulfed and ultimately destroyed the last Tory government.

Although the district auditor initially focused on overspending on lunches and trips abroad by councillors, more recently a series of complaints about the council's planning department has emerged. Councillors have been alleged to have supported planning applications for developers against officer's ad-

vice, and an officer is also accused of having written a developer's planning application.

Council officers in the planning department have complained of interference by councillors seeking to push the interests of particular developers. The council has been criticised several times by the Department of the Environment for breaching guidelines on developments in the green belt. A 1995 letter obtained by *The Independent* from the local regional Government office to Mr Ellis says that civil servants were "concerned that the green belt issue does not appear to have been adequately addressed in a number of committee reports" including several major developments.

The planning chairman, Peter Binks, was one of the councillors suspended after allegations that he failed to declare he was living in a £175,000 house owned by a developer but now the focus of the investigation has moved to the officers themselves. A council spokesman said yesterday that "it was only fair that the two council officers should be suspended to enable inquiries to be conducted in line with the council's disciplinary procedures".

Council leader Peter Welsh and deputy leader Ray Stockhill resigned their posts soon after the scandal emerged, and chief executive Doug Hale was suspended at the end of April and then took early retirement. John Smith, the finance director, was also allowed to leave early.



At ease: A soldier wearing the traditional Royal Highland Fusiliers Tam O'Shanter on patrol in West Belfast yesterday

Photograph: Reuters

Call to automate baby hearing tests

Jeremy Laurance
Health Editor

All new-born babies should have their hearing tested with a new automatic probe, a government report is expected to recommend after research has shown that three out of four babies with hearing difficulties are being missed by current screening methods.

The report, by the Medical Research Council's Institute of Hearing Research in Nottingham, is understood to say that of 840 children born with per-

manent hearing problems each year, only one-quarter are identified by the standard hearing check at nine months. This usually involves one health visitor distracting the child while another makes quiet sounds to see whether the baby notices.

The test picks up one in four children with hearing loss and another one-quarter are identified in other ways by the age of 18 months. But half are not diagnosed until the age of three, according to *Health Which?* magazine. This means that they do not benefit from hearing

aids at a crucial time in their development.

The new test, which is cheaper and more accurate than the distraction test, involves inserting a probe into the baby's ear which sends out clicks and then listens for the tiny echoes that a healthy ear should send back.

Dr Tina Ramkalawan, one of the report's authors, says parents might be anxious that something is wrong but be unsure what it is and unable to do anything about it, according to the magazine.

"It is very worrying if you are a parent with a child who doesn't respond to you and you've no idea why. Parents may think they have got a difficult child when in fact the child just can't hear," Dr Ramkalawan said.

A spokeswoman for the Department of Health said that all recommendations on screening had to go before the National Screening Committee, chaired by Sir Kenneth Calman, the Government's chief medical officer, which next meets in October.

Medical records held by GPs can be inaccurate or misleading. *Health Which?* magazine says. Of 23 volunteers who asked to see their records, five found mistakes. One patient had a pain in his left side recorded as a pain in his right, another had her age noted as 53 instead of 35.

Six patients said there were gaps in their medical histories. One found no records before 1995 and another found no mention of a prescription for methadone he had received for severe back pain.

In a separate case that came

Troops get kitted out for peace

The Army is relaxing its security precautions for patrolling soldiers as a direct result of the new IRA ceasefire.

Troops will replace their hard helmets with regimental head dress when they are out on the streets, the Army announced yesterday.

The operational policy decision had been taken "in the light of the current assessment of the threat to the security forces following the declaration of the IRA ceasefire on July 20", said a spokesman.

Local Army commanders will retain the discretion to order soldiers to wear helmets for their personal protection during particular operational tasks.

The first sign of the reduced precautions came yesterday, when members of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, donned their traditional Tam O'Shanter when they went out on patrol in West Belfast accompanying Royal Ulster Constabulary officers.

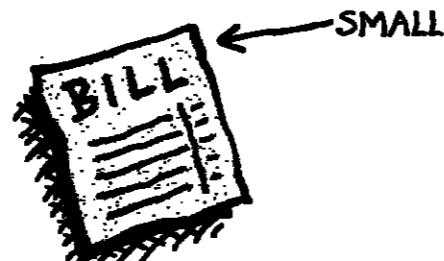
A similar move was made in the wake of the IRA's 1994 ceasefire, but had to be quickly reversed when the republicans resumed their campaign 17 months later.

to light, a woman whose father sexually abused her as a child found her records had been changed. One entry, which she saw during one of her many visits to the surgery, referred to "bizarre and wild allegations appertaining to abuse by the father". When she later asked for her records this reference had been erased. Other records of visits to the same GP, a family friend, were also missing making her claims of sexual abuse look less credible. Her father was eventually convicted on evidence from another child victim.

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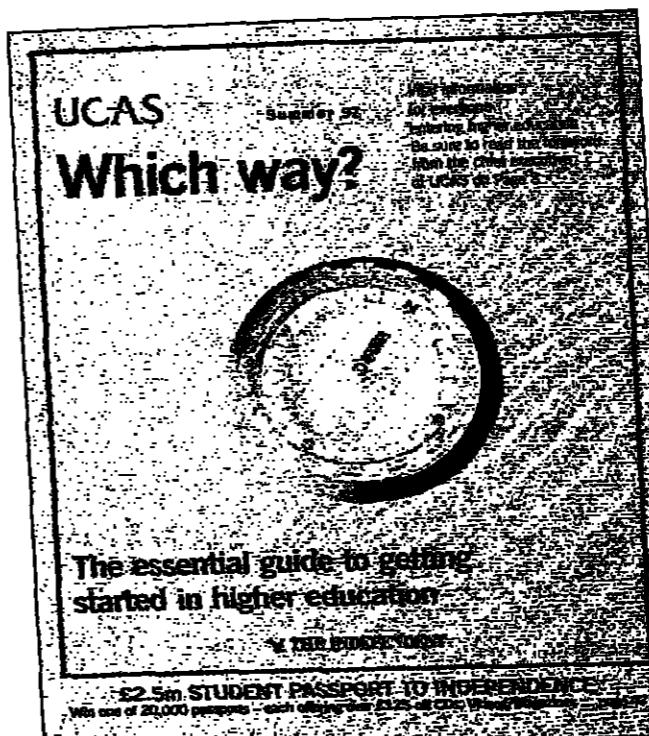
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Troops
get
kitted
out for
peace

The British children who want to end the US death penalty

Clare Garner

They call themselves "Juniors for Justice". A group of 11, 12 and 13-year-old crusaders from a remote religious community in southern England are flying to Pennsylvania this week to protest against the death penalty.

The youngsters, who have grown up at Darwell Bruderhof, an Anabaptist community in Robertsbridge, East Sussex, have been corresponding with inmates on death row for several years. In June they received a letter which stopped them in their tracks. "Wouldn't it be ironic if children did what every politician in this country would love to do, but are too intimidated to?" wrote Gary Norrasak from his cell.

Words, they realised, were not enough. They must march to make their point.

Despite the fact that these children have been brought up in a world with no television, where the divorce rate is zero and crime is inconceivable, the strength of their social conscience means they spend most of their waking hours worrying about the gross injustices that go on inside the State Correctional Institute (SCI) Greene in Waynesburg, Pennsylvania.

"We are the future," said one, "and we're going to make a difference. If we want the world to be different, it's up to us."

On Friday they fly to the States to meet up with 180 children from the seven other Bruderhof communities. They will march for three days across 30 miles of Pennsylvania, waving banners and shouting for the abolition of the death penalty and the release of political prisoners. On August 20 they will

rally outside SCI Greene with politicians such as Tony Benn and Ramsey Clark, a former US Attorney-General.

The first Bruderhof community was founded in a German village in 1920 by Eberhard Arnold, a lecturer and writer. He was inspired by original Anabaptists such as the Amish, the sect from northern Pennsylvania featured in Peter Weir's 1985 film *Witness*, starring Harrison Ford and Kelly McGillis.

Like the Amish, the Bruderhof community have had a chequered history. They were expelled from Germany in 1937 and new Bruderhofs communities were founded in England in the late 1930s. Today there are six communities on the east coast of America and two in south east England, with a worldwide membership of two thousand.

Bruderhof children are encouraged to care about human rights abuses from an early age. They are running the "Children's Crusade" by themselves. As Simon Manke, one of the adults accompanying the children, explained: "We told the children we would support it, but it's their thing."

They have raised money for the march by selling dwarf rabbits and vegetables. They record donations on a colourful wall chart, bringing home to visitors just how young the campaigners are.

Eric Nelson, 13, one of six children chosen by the Bruderhof to go to America, feels the death penalty is "poor man's issue". In Pennsylvania, 60% of people on death row are non-white and only 10% of the population in Pennsylvania is non-white. It's very obvious that our statistics show that if you are black man, you have



much more of a chance of getting on death row and being convicted because, on the whole, black people are poor."

Last week he received an en-

dorsement from Sister Helen Prejean, the author of the book *Dead Man Walking*. She described the children's march as a "sacred pilgrimage for life",

writing: "Jesus told us that unless we all become as little children we cannot enter the realm of God... Thanks and abundant blessings on the Bruderhof

Children who are teaching us today what these words of Jesus mean. My love and prayers are with you on the road."

Kathrina Rimes, 13, is also

going to Pennsylvania. She opposes the death penalty because: "If you can't give life, you have no right to take it."

"The crime is bad but we still believe

Children's moral war: 'Juniors for Justice' from the Bruderhof in East Sussex preparing a banner for the march in Pennsylvania, helped by their teacher Bridget Maendel. Photograph: Andrew Hasson

that the murderer is human and therefore shouldn't be treated like an animal and put on death row."

Every child at the Bruderhof is making a contribution: painting banners and rehearsing songs they have learnt the lyrics by heart. *Freedom Rap* is their favourite. As they sway their hips and swing their arms to the beat, Levi Shirk, 11, steps forward and sings: "I'm tellin' you the story 'bout a crime we're going to stop/ It's the story of the hundreds who've been picked up by a cop/ The ones who criticised the system got themselves involved, were miles away, yet fit the crime the policeman had to solve."

The children are keen to gain the support of others of their age, but are sympathetic to their less enlightened contemporaries. "They're just not told about it," said Levi. "Their parents and teachers make it look like it's fair: that once one man has killed someone, someone else must be killed."

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BARCLAYS

No more fee exemptions, says Labour

Lucy Ward
Education Correspondent

The Government yesterday resisted calls to extend exemption from university fees beyond students planning voluntary work, despite mounting pressure from opposition parties, students, vice-chancellors and headteachers.

Though delaying any formal announcement until Thursday, when A-level results are published, or even Friday, it gave clear signals that calls for a fee waiver for all students with a deferred university place for 1998 would be rejected.

Ministers were digging in their heels despite the threat of a legal challenge and predictions by admissions officials that the limited exemption would benefit only around 2,000 students out of 19,000 with deferred places.

Vice-chancellors meeting yesterday stressed the need for terms which allowed all students to "feel happy about continuing their gap year". And the Conservative education spokesman, David Willetts, called for an "urgent and authoritative statement", accusing the Government of causing more stress for A-level students by delaying an announcement.

Under plans to be announced in detail later this week, students with a firm offer of a place for 1998 who can prove they intend to do at least three months' voluntary work with a recognised organisation during their gap year will be exempted from fees.

All other students starting university next year and after will be liable for means-tested tuition fees of up to £1,000 per year of study, payable after graduation, plus thousands more in living costs following the abolition of maintenance grants.

The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service, UCAS, has warned that 40,000-90,000 more students than in previous years could make late applications this summer to take advantage of the last year of free higher education. It fears its clearing system, which matches candidates to unfilled places, could be swamped by the rush.

The National Union of Students yesterday confirmed it would back any legal test case challenging the Government's decision. Lawyers are divided over the likely outcome, but education legal specialist, Jack Rabinowicz, said students could have grounds for a judicial review.

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said it was "manifestly wrong" to limit the fees concession to those planning charity work, and insisted students fulfilling a university offer for a deferred place had met their side of a contract.

However, sources at the Department for Education and Employment insisted that while students planning voluntary work deserved assistance for helping society, others could earn money towards fees.

And the Treasury would argue strongly that a line had to be drawn, and that exempting more students would invalidate the decision to levy fees in the first place.

Barry Jackson, director of corporate affairs at the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals, said university leaders wanted students already committed to a gap year to feel content to continue with their plans. They did not want to see students left "in limbo" while the Government prepared to clarify its exemption deal, which emerged via press leaks.

Police get
powers to
identify
child sex
offenders

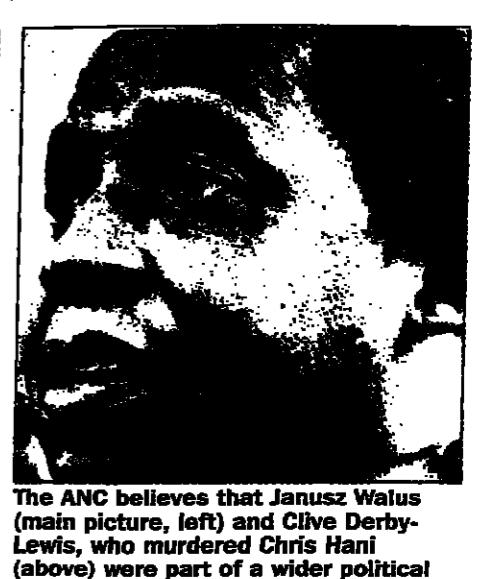
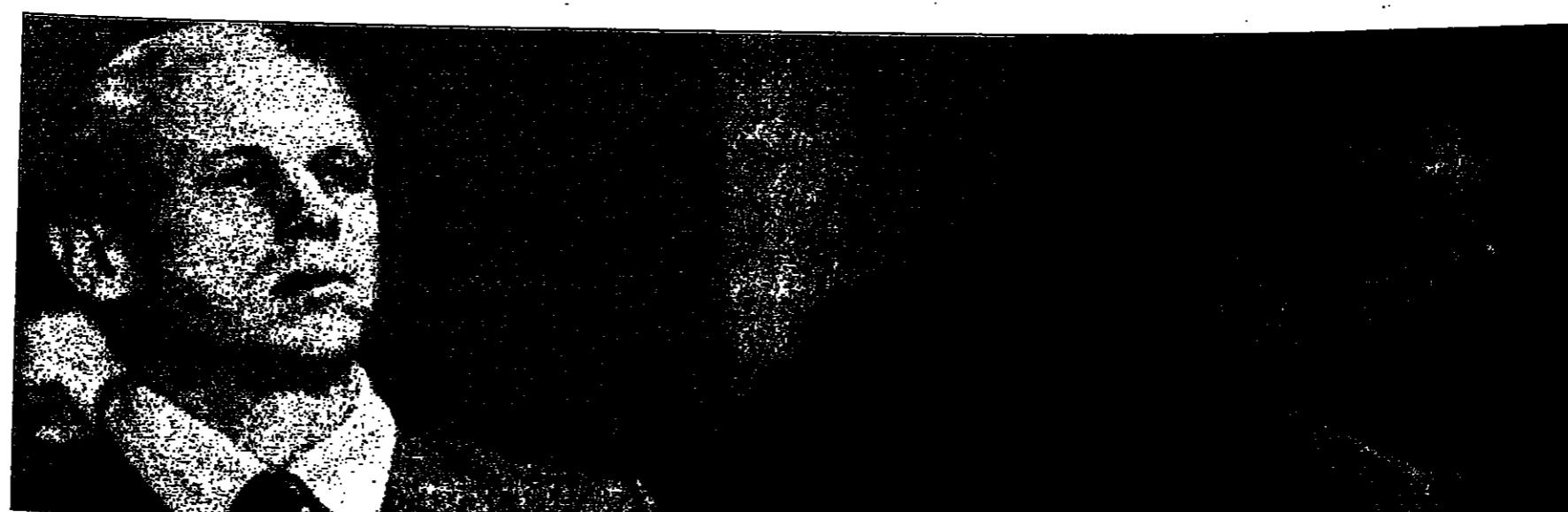
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international

Hani's killers confront the truth test

As the men
who shot
dead SA's
Communist
leader seek
amnesty,
blacks fear
that true
justice may
be sacrificed



The ANC believes that Janusz Walus (main picture, left) and Clive Derby-Lewis, who murdered Chris Hani (above) were part of a wider political conspiracy

Photographs: AP

Mary Braid

Pretoria

Nomakhwezi, the teenage daughter of the late Chris Hani, one of South Africa's towering political figures, sat quietly in the front row of Pretoria City Hall yesterday looking at her father's killers just feet away.

As she gazed at Polish immigrant Janusz Walus, 42, and at Clive Derby-Lewis, 61, former South African Conservative Party MP, her mind must surely have drifted back to 10 April 1993.

That was the day Walus pumped four bullets into her father in the drive of their home. As her father's blood spilled across the paving stones and Nomakhwezi ran screaming for help, South Africa, in the middle of its precarious political transition, looked into the abyss.

With the murder of Hani - leader of the South African Communist Party (SACP), former head of the African National Congress's military wing and darling of the townships - the peace talks that promised to make Nelson Mandela the country's first democratically elected president hung by a thread. In the days leading up to his funeral, South Africa threatened to explode.

Yesterday Nomakhwezi, with her mother Limpopo, watched Walus and Derby-Lewis ask the Truth and Reconciliation Commission for amnesty. Prominent ANC figures and SACP leaders joined them. It is the most politically sensitive case to have come before the Commission. According to Cheryl Carolus, the ANC's acting secretary general, it is the case which truly tests the credibility of the controversial TRC.

The Hani's, the ANC politicians and the SACP came to op-

pose the application of Walus, who pulled the trigger, and Derby-Lewis, who provided the gun and masterminded the assassination. The men are already serving life for the murder.

Central is the belief that Walus and Derby-Lewis were part of a wider political conspiracy. The most credible theory is that other extreme right-wingers were involved in the murder although the National Party and even Hani's ANC comrades have been accused of involvement.

The TRC balances its controversial power to offer amnesty with a promise to expose the truth about the atrocities of the apartheid era. Victims' families, barred from taking legal action against perpetrators if amnesty is granted, are expected to be comforted with the knowledge of how their loved ones died. Amnesty is, therefore, supposed to be granted only if full disclosure is made.

The Hani case highlights growing disquiet that the TRC is failing to reveal enough truths to justify depriving victims' families of redress through the courts.

"Hani was prepared to forgive," said Sam Tsiane, a local SACP official. "It is time to grant amnesty, but only if they tell the truth. We want to know who gave them their instructions. Anything less and the TRC will lose the confidence of the community." His colleague was less compromising. "If they grant them amnesty it makes a mockery of the TRC."

The small group of right-wing supporters - including Derby-Lewis's wife Gaye, 55, who was acquitted of Hani's murder - was furious when the Hani family's counsel, George Bizos, produced statements made by Walus and Derby-Lewis in de-

position which apparently contradict their claim that they acted alone. The statements were not used in the original court case and are crucial to the Hani family's contention that full disclosure has not been made and amnesty cannot be granted.

Walus's lawyer claimed the statements were inadmissible because the police had plied him with alcohol. Gerald Derby-Lewis, Clive's younger brother, said: "These statements were made under torture." Mr Derby-Lewis said he did not share

his brother's politics but found it incredible that the TRC might not grant him amnesty after recently freeing four black youths who murdered an American student, Amy Biehl.

Yesterday, Walus and Derby-Lewis insisted again that they

acted alone. Walus claimed he killed Hani to prevent a handover to Communist rule. He said a "hit list" - comprising of nine names including Hani's and Mr Mandela's - found in his possession came from Derby-Lewis's home. He stuck by the

explanation given at his trial: Gaye Derby-Lewis had drawn up the list for use in parliament. He had simply borrowed it.

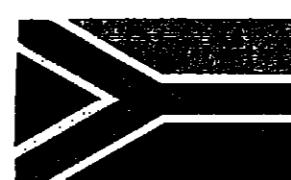
When Walus and Derby-Lewis were originally found guilty, Limpopo Hani said justice had been only half done. Full

satisfaction would come when the other "plotters" were found. If the TRC fail to find any other conspirators and Walus and Derby-Lewis walk free, Mrs Hani, and countless South Africans, will feel she has had no justice at all.



Comradely comfort: Winnie Mandela with Limpopo Hani at the Commission hearing yesterday. Photograph: AP

Seeking answers to heal the bitter wounds of the past



The Truth and Reconciliation Commission was the foundation of South Africa's remarkable negotiated transfer of power. After decades of gross human rights abuses, including state-backed assassinations and torture, the country needed a mechanism for dealing with its past, writes Mary Braid.

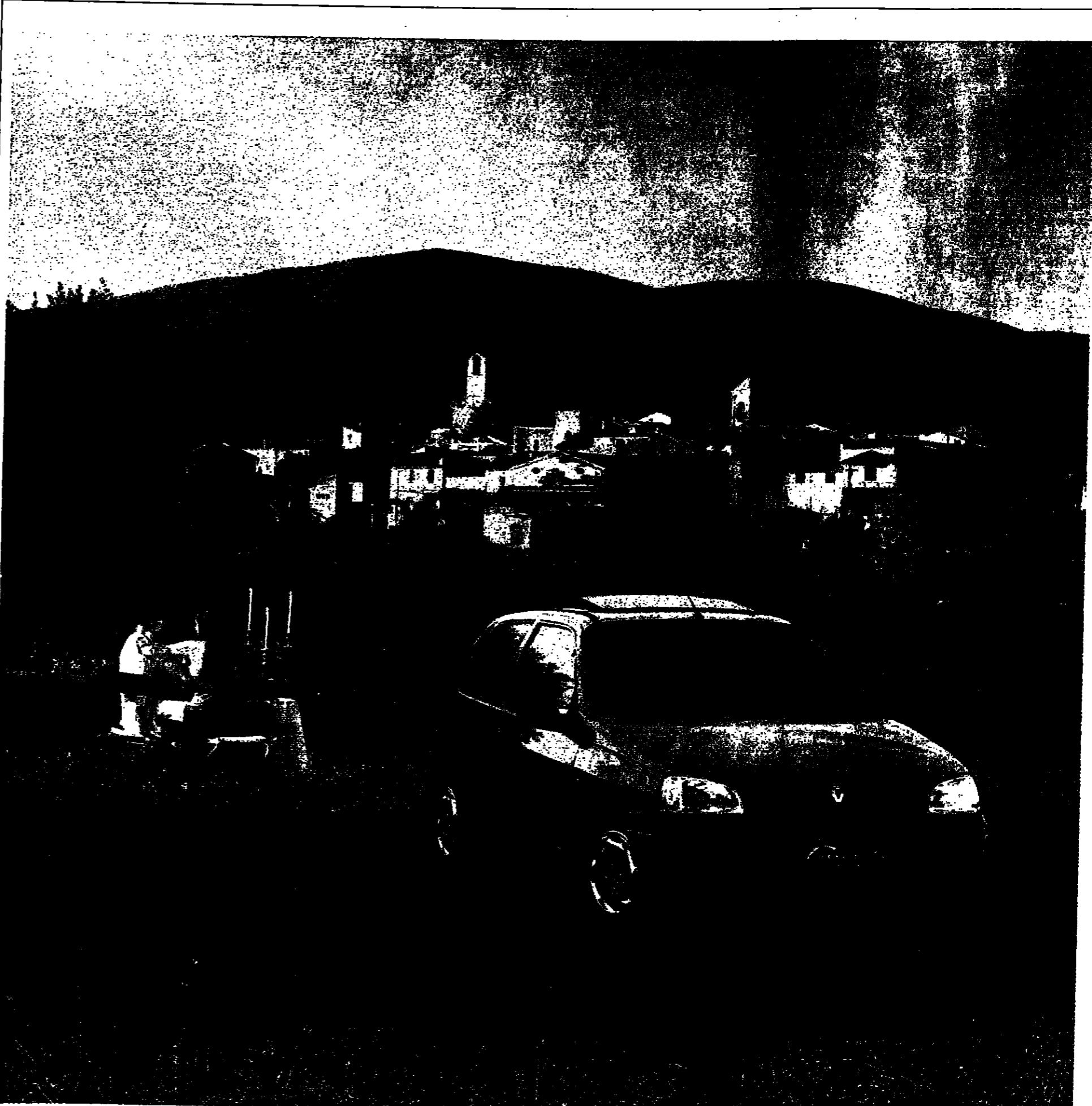
A negotiated deal between the African National Congress and the National Party ruled out Nuremberg-style trials. And if all the guilty men had been pursued through the courts, it would have paralysed the justice system.

Thebo Mbeki, now the country's deputy president, and Kader Asmal, now a government minister, came up with the idea of an independent Commission. The TRC would expose the truth about the apartheid era as first step to healing a divided nation. The Commission began with public hearings for thousands of victims which proved harrowing but relatively uncontroversial.

In return for the truth, the TRC also offers perpetrators amnesty if they fully disclose their crimes and prove they were politically motivated. Victims are then barred from taking civil or criminal action against them. Last month the amnesty hearings began in earnest and are proving far more divisive as the killers of liberation heroes step forward.

There are complaints that whites ignore the TRC. It is also claimed that the politicians who gave the orders are escaping, while the foot soldiers take the rap. The National Party, on the other hand, now claims that the TRC is conducting a witchhunt against it, and the Zulu Inkatha Freedom Party alleges the same.

The commission should have finished work in June but has been extended to December.



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Abdication card played by Cambodia's ailing king

Matthew Chance

Threatening to plunge Cambodia into renewed crisis, King Norodom Sihanouk yesterday told his country's leaders he was prepared to abdicate to make way for a younger successor, possibly his son, Prince Norodom Ranariddh.

The prince was ousted as Cambodia's Co-Prime Minister in a bloody *coup d'état* in July, a move which the white-haired and infirm monarch has not publicly opposed, but which out of loyalty to his son has refused to support outright.

The statement was released ahead of a meeting with the coup leader, Hun Sen, at the king's sumptuous palace in Peking. The building was presented to him by the sympathetic Chinese, complete with a heated swimming pool, servants and a reputed nine chefs, after he was deposed by an American-backed regime in the early 1970s.

Since his restoration by the brutal Khmer Rouge in 1975, the king has repeatedly threatened to abdicate. It is one of the few political levers at his disposal in a country where the monarch has little executive power but remains a powerful symbol.

For most Cambodians who have endured the brutal genocide at the hands of the Khmer Rouge, foreign invasions, and a 20-year civil war which has scarred their land and shattered millions of lives, the king has been of the few constants in the fabric of the nation. And while they have starved or struggled in poverty, they have never held against him his luxurious playboy lifestyle, which has taken him through four wives, copious amounts of champagne, and countless fast cars.

Much of the king's tastes can be traced to his extensive contacts with France, the colonial master of Indo-China until 1954, and the country where Sihanouk was both educated



Faded glory: King Norodom Sihanouk, who is threatening to abdicate

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the Americans and caused them to back his removal by the right-wing forces of Lon Nol.

Before his overthrow in 1970, he would entertain guests at banquets and moonlit performances of the Royal Ballet, at which he would delight in pointing out the beauty of a particular dancer.

The following day, he would spend hours in the courtyards of his Cambodian royal palace, listening to the complaints of peasants about the high cost of rice.

Worsening health in recent

years has led to long absences from Cambodia, and has reduced his once considerable political clout, which helped bring the warring Cambodian factions to an uneasy peace in 1991.

The king, at 74, now little more than a figurehead, holds a weak hand in the face of Hun Sen. He knows that his abdication would probably achieve little, as the power to choose a new monarch rests essentially with Hun Sen himself.

"Prince Ranariddh probably wouldn't even get a look in," said one diplomat in the capital, Phnom Penh. "There are plenty of other easily manipulated little princelings to choose from."

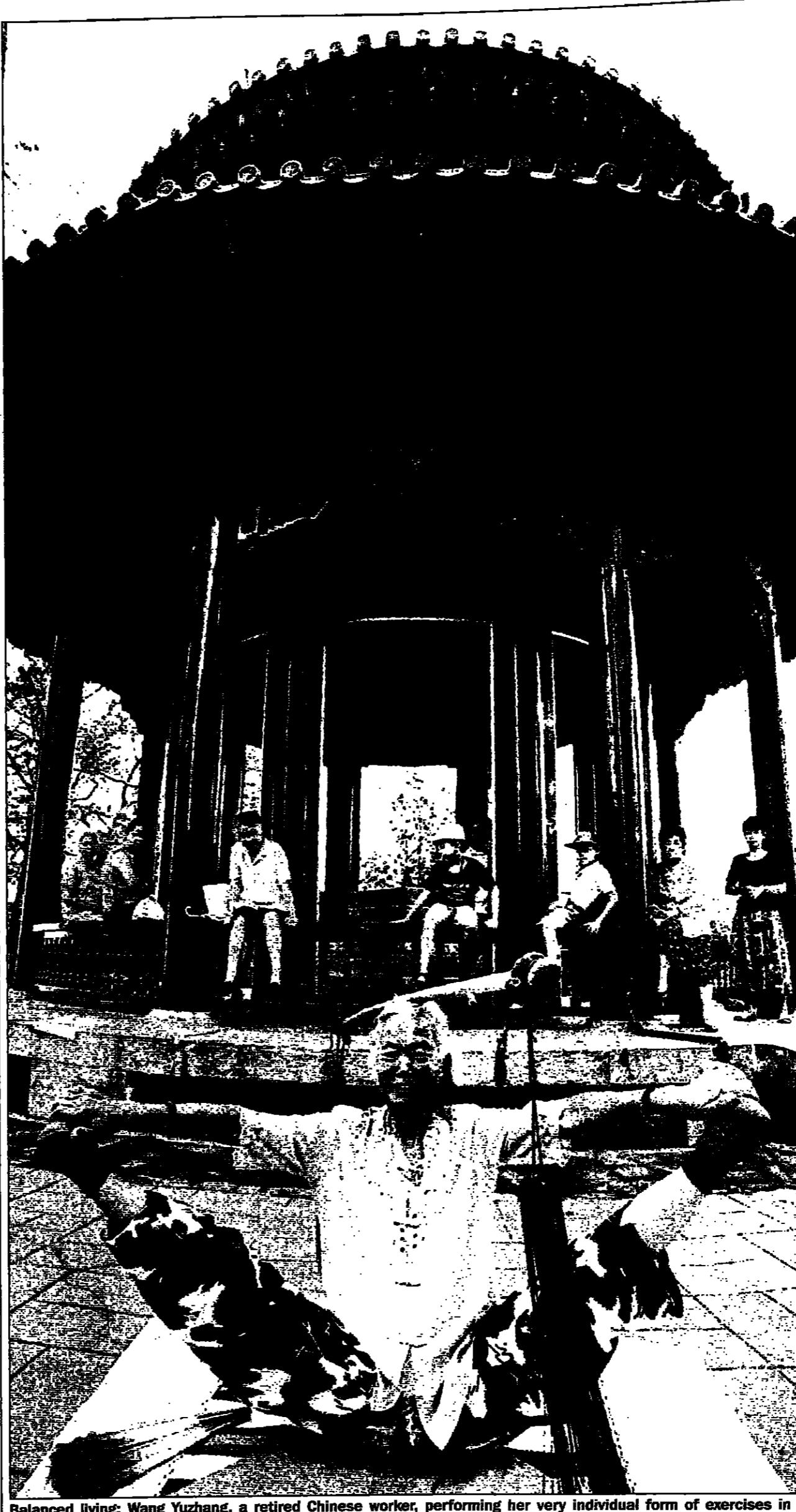
But there is one possibility which King Sihanouk must be acutely aware of. If Hun Sen is unable to secure the political blessing of the King, he might decide to alter the constitution and declare Cambodia a republic.

It may be too early to relegate such a wily survivor as the King to oblivion just yet. In spite of his illness, the monarch has hinted that he intends to return home in order to conduct Buddhist rituals in the ancient temple ruins of Angkor Wat and meet his subjects.

A high-profile return to Cambodia could well ignite popular royalist sentiment, stymie any attempts by Hun Sen to abolish the monarchy and dash the aspirations of the coup-leader to assume the office of president.

In the run up to general elections which are expected to take place next May, Hun Sen's main opponents for government will be Funcinpec, the royalist political party led by Prince Ranariddh.

If the elections are free and fair, though they may not be, a royal visit could swing public opinion further away from Hun Sen's Cambodian Peoples' Party and bring about a humiliating election defeat.



Balanced living: Wang Yuzhang, a retired Chinese worker, performing her very individual form of exercises in a Peking park where thousands of elderly early risers congregate daily to sing, dance and exercise. Photograph: AFP

Olympic protest group claim bomb

Stockholm (AP) — Sweden's national news agency, TT, received a letter yesterday claiming that an extremist group opposed to Stockholm's bid for the 2004 Olympic Games was behind last week's bomb blast at the city's Olympic stadium.

The letter, purportedly from a group calling itself "We who built Sweden", also warned of further attacks unless Stockholm withdrew its bid for the games. "We are the ones who burn and blow up sports arenas," the message said. "We have large reserves of explosives, automatic weapons and ammunition. Do not doubt our determination and ability."

But Swedish police said the note was probably not written by those who were responsible for the blast — the eighth attack against sports arenas in Stockholm since the government gave financial backing to Stockholm's bid in May.

"The contents suggest that someone else has written the letter, but it's hard to tell before the security service has analysed it," Stockholm police spokesman Claes Cassel told TT.

Police were comparing the letter with several arson and bomb threats against malls in Swedish cities during the Christmas shopping season.

Stockholm's chief of police, Sune Sandstrom, also denied a link between the letter and the arson attacks. "It would have been sent earlier if there was a clear connection to the bid," Mr Sandstrom said.

No one was hurt in Friday's predawn explosion, which scattered glass, roof tiles and debris from the 1912 arena — the world's oldest Olympic stadium still in regular use.

Yesterday's note attacked the cost of the Games. "If Sweden is to arrange the Olympics, everyone involved in the preparations and arrangements will be our targets. This includes athletes and audiences," it said.

Opponents of the bid claim the Olympics would drain more money from Sweden's cradle-to-grave welfare system, which has been suffering cutbacks in recent years.

Politicians and sports officials publicly said the bombing would have no effect on Stockholm's chances of winning the bid to arrange the games, but the *Aftonbladet* newspaper summed up what many people feared. "End of the Olympic Dream," a front-page headline said at the weekend.

The International Olympic Committee is to decide on 5 September which city will organise the 2004 Olympics. The other candidates are Buenos Aires; Argentina, Cape Town; South Africa, Athens; Greece and Rome.

significant shorts

Clinton uses new power of veto to amend budget

Wielding a power sought by United States presidents for generations, Bill Clinton yesterday struck from the new federal budget a provision allowing US companies to defer taxes from some overseas income. The line-item veto, which Congress passed last year, gives the president the authority to strike individual items from spending and tax bills. Until now, a president had to either veto the entire measure or sign it in its entirety. AP — Washington

Gloom mars Cyprus talks

Leaders of the two main communities in Cyprus put on a display of jollity for the formal opening of a new round of talks. President Glafcos Clerides and the Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash appeared relaxed as they sat down for the discussions at a luxury Swiss hotel. But gloom was deepened by Mr Denktash insisting on absolute political equality with Mr Clerides — anathema to the Greek Cypriots. Reuters — Montreux

Warrior father falls from grace

A former Indian prince has been ostracized from his Hindu warrior caste for allowing his daughter to marry a commoner relative. The Rajput Sabha, representing the caste of Hindu warriors, excommunicated Bhawani Singh for allowing his daughter, Diya, to marry a family aide. AP — New Delhi

Last Italians leave Albania

The last 60 Italian soldiers of an Italian-led multinational force in Albania pulled out of Tirana, one day before the end of their mandate. Scores of Greek soldiers remain in Elbasan, but they are no longer part of the multinational force, and their presence is a bilateral agreement between the Greek and Albanian governments. AP — Tirana

Plea to save Berlin Wall

Archivists, artists and politicians called for a concerted effort to protect the last remaining fragments of the Berlin Wall from property developers, trophy hunters and the weather. "There is hardly anything left of this piece of the global history," said Rainer Hildebrandt, director of the Haus am Checkpoint Charlie museum. Reuters — Berlin

Ask punters in an Ankara *meyhane* what they think of their domestic politics, and they might, fortified by the national brew, describe it as Byzantine. As for customers in an Athens taverna, they could, between slurps on a similar, aniseed-based potion, like their parliament to the Ottoman court. Both images suggest intrigue and betrayal, but from the perspective of relations between raki-drinking Turks and ouzo-drinking Greeks, this is no bad thing; the more their politicians have in common, the better.

Nowadays, in important ways, this is quite a lot. The Turks are happy to see that the Greek Prime Minister, Costas Simitis, having got the better of anti-Turks at home, is plodding determinedly away from the muscle-flexing of his predecessor, Andreas Papandreou. As

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Greece and Turkey move closer

Christopher de Bellaigue on hopes of a Mediterranean thaw

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Olympic
Protest
group
claim
bomb

Palestine and Israel steer joint course

Stephanie Nolen
Jerusalem

Two dusty Jeeps, packed with Israeli and Palestinian soldiers, cruised through the West Bank town of Tulkarem yesterday afternoon. They did not attract much attention in sleepy Tulkarem, but in fact they were the first tangible product of the latest effort by the United States to patch up the Middle East peace process. The soldiers were on the first joint Israeli-Palestinian pa-

tro to take place since two suicide bombers killed 13 people in a Jerusalem market two weeks ago, after which Israel immediately broke off its relations with the Palestinian Authority (PA).

US State Department special envoy Dennis Ross arrived in Jerusalem on Saturday night, on a new initiative to revive peace talks. He was supposed to have come two weeks earlier, seeking to break a five-month deadlock in the talks, but his travel plans were scuttled by the bombing.

Mr Ross shuttled between the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat all day on Sunday. His efforts culminated in a midnight meeting in Ramallah, where he met with Mr Arafat; Ami Ayalon, the head of Israeli Internal Security Services; and Amin al-Mundi, head of PA Intelligence Services. Afterwards, a spokesman for Mr Arafat confirmed that the PA had resumed its security co-ordination with Israel.

Demands for security have been the steady Israeli refrain since the bombing. The PA officially suspended all co-operation, such as the joint patrols, after Israel slapped a punishing military closure on the West Bank and Gaza strip in the wake of the attack.

Mr Netanyahu said yesterday that he would be satisfied "only when we know we are getting all the intelligence information that they [the PA] have". In fact, the Israeli defence minister Yitzhak Mordechai said last Friday, before the Ross mission, that

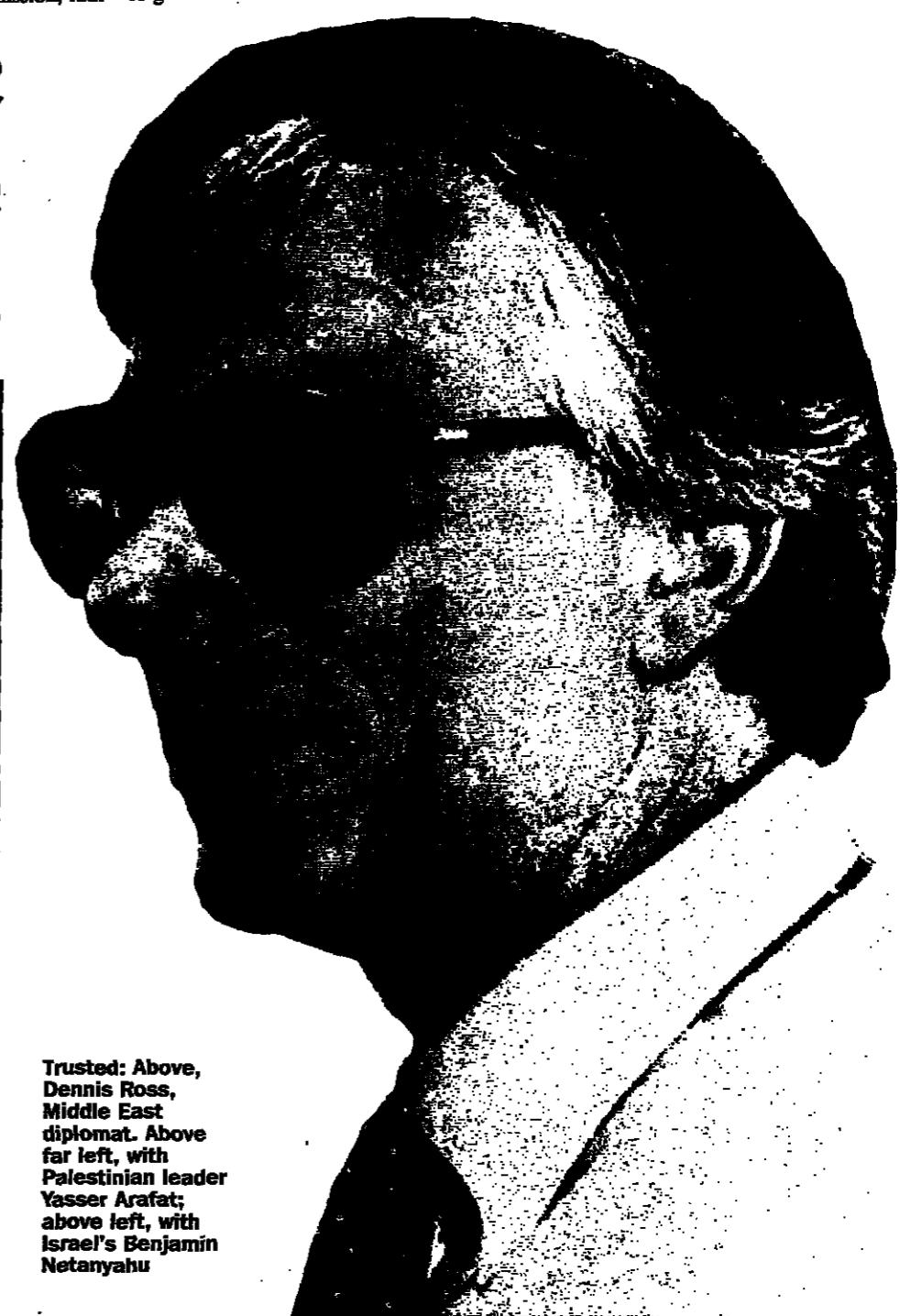
there was already a "satisfactory" level of co-operation. But by stressing the security issue, Mr Netanyahu can win points with an Israeli audience still jittery after the market attack and ensure that political issues stay off the Ross agenda.

Arriving on Saturday, Mr Ross said he was sent with three objectives: to pave the way for a visit by the US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, now slated for late August; to resume security co-operation, and to get both sides back to the negotiating

table. By those criteria, he has done remarkably well in just two days, and the overall Israeli reaction to his first day's work has been very positive.

Palestinians, however, are asking what happens if they come back to the table they are still waiting for the implementation of agreements signed with Israel more than two years ago. Mr Ross reportedly assured Mr Arafat that if the security question could be resolved, Ms Albright would undertake a broader political initiative on her visit.

The self-effacing academic who refuses to let peace in the Middle East out of his sights



After five years, Dennis Ross leads a new US initiative in the region, writes Mary Dejevsky

As of this weekend, Dennis Ross, whose unwieldy title is "Special Middle East Co-ordinator in the US Department of State", is back in the region, trying yet again to persuade Israelis and Arabs to coexist, permanently, in peace. The trip is officially the one that was postponed after the two suicide bombs in Jerusalem three weeks ago.

But those bombs also prompted a re-think in Washington, convincing the United States – it is said – to revert to a more hands-on role (after several months of leaving well alone) and press for an accelerated fulfilment of the Oslo accords. This would bring the delicate matter of jurisdiction over Jerusalem onto the agenda sooner than either the Israelis or the Palestinians had envisaged.

If that is so, then Mr Ross, who has been shuttling around the Middle East for the last five of his 48 years, is seen by most observers as the only man for the job. His immediate task is to test the water to gauge whether further progress is possible – on that will depend

whether the US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, makes her first official visit to the region later this summer.

Mr Ross, described by friends and sceptics alike (enemies) as a "tough, strong (and) low profile", as he has done since the start of his career. He gives the impression of a grey, rather self-effacing man, more at home in the corridors of academe and the state department than in the glare of television lights. His middle initial, B, reportedly stands for nothing, it just fills out his name.

A Californian, who initially specialised in Soviet studies and Soviet policy towards the Middle East, he has worked in government – the Pentagon, the state department – since the late Seventies, with one break in the early Eighties when he ran a Soviet studies course at the universities of Berkeley and Stanford.

Although a Democrat, his front-line diplomatic role began when he became adviser to then Secretary of State, James Baker, as the Soviet Union was breaking up. His specialty was the impact of Communism's fall on regional issues, and his vast accumulated experience of the Middle East makes him, in the words of one associate, "indispensable" to the peace process. After a decade, he now knows all the players personally.

The strongest opinion ventured by sceptics is that Mr Ross has perhaps been shuttling around the Middle East for too long, that knowing the players could be a disadvantage and that, just maybe, Washington needs a fresh mind and a fresh face to tackle fresh problems, even though they are just aggravated forms of a very old problem.

One argument that is not advanced against Mr Ross in this

context is his Jewish background. He knows Israel intimately and spends holidays there. His children are named Gabriel, Rachel and Ilana. Yet, it is said, his biggest recent problems have not been with Yasser Arafat or the Palestinians, who are said to have come to trust him, but with the Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu.

Mr Ross is said to have had two liabilities in his dealings with the present Israeli government.

Despite serving the Republican administration of George Bush, he is a Democrat – and since the Reagan administration Democrats are now deemed to be less friendly towards Israel than Republicans. He is also seen (along with many in the state department) as having staked so much on agreements reached with the former Israeli leadership, that he regarded the election of Netanyahu, albeit by the slimmest of majorities, as a disaster.

Now, though, even Mr Netanyahu is said to have come around to the view that Dennis Ross can be trusted – and that his experience is an advantage. However, whether that will be enough to make this make-or-break trip to the region a success, is not something anyone in the chancy business of Middle East diplomacy would stake his future on.

Trusted: Above, Dennis Ross, Middle East diplomat. Above far left, with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat; above left, with Israel's Benjamin Netanyahu

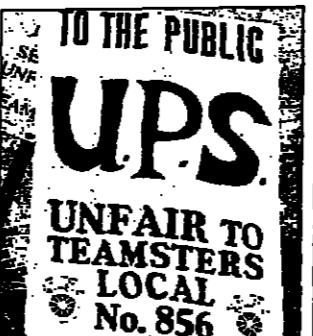
US unions fight back in service sector

Mary Dejevsky
Washington

The umbrella organisation for United States trade unions, the AFL-CIO, yesterday launched a media campaign intended to attract new members from sections of the work force – low-paid, low-skilled workers in the retail and service sectors – it has barely tapped before. The launch came on the day that one of the biggest strikes in recent years, called by the Teamsters Union at United Parcel Service, went into its second week with no sign of a solution.

While the conjunction of the recruitment drive with the continuing strike was an accident, many believe that the times are potentially more conducive to trade union activism than they have been for years. US has a record number of people in employment, but wages have been almost static in low-paying jobs. As the UPS strike has shown, many full-time workers in comparatively well-paid jobs fear they could be replaced by cheaper part-timers. The genesis of the UPS strike is the proportion of part-timers and their low pay compared to that of full-time workers.

The AFL-CIO drive focuses on members relating how their union has helped them and their families. It includes trade union intervention to obtain compensation for industrial injuries,



Parcel force: Trade unions at UPS strike to protect full-time jobs

Waigel calls for cabinet clear-out

Imre Karacs
Bonn

Chancellor Helmut Kohl was forced to make an intervention yesterday from his holiday hide-out in Austria, after one of the most senior members of the German government publicly called for a reshuffle.

In a series of newspaper interviews over the weekend, Theodor Waigel, the Finance Minister, had urged his boss to clear the dead wood out of his cabinet before embarking on next year's general election campaign. Mr Waigel, leader of the Christian Social Union of Bavaria, also made a bid for one of the cabinet seats currently controlled by the Free Democrats, the smallest of the three parties which make up Mr Kohl's government.

Through his spokesman in Bonn, the Chancellor let it be known that such discussions about a reshuffle were "superfluous".

Trade unions still face formidable difficulties, not just from employers, but from workers fearing of "spoil" relations with management.

The problem was illustrated last week when workers at a Wal-Mart supermarket in Wisconsin voted against joining a union. But the fact that this was the first Wal-Mart store to face such a vote indicates that trade unionism in the US is not dead yet.

until the elections," Mr Waigel said, "then one should tell him: 'Comrade, it would have been nice, but we must build our new team now.'"

Though the Finance Minister refused to name any of the tired faces he had in mind, there is little doubt that Günter Rexrodt, the Economy Minister, would be on top of such list. Mr Rexrodt does not even enjoy the confidence of his own party, the Free Democrats, and is believed to have flirted in the past with the idea of leaving the government.

The Economy Minister's departure would seem to fit in well with Mr Waigel's game plan, namely to swap portfolios with the FDP. Klaus Kinkel, the Free Democrat Foreign Minister, would thus take over the hot potato of Finance, allowing Mr Waigel to fulfil his cherished ambition of straddling the world stage.

This could only happen, however, if the FDP were eased out of the Economics Ministry. Mr Waigel also noted that one minister from his party, Wolfgang Böhme, will drop out of the government when his fiefdom, the post office, is privatised later this year.

The CSU, he said, will have to be given something else, otherwise it will only have the same number of government seats – three – as the Free Democrat minnows.

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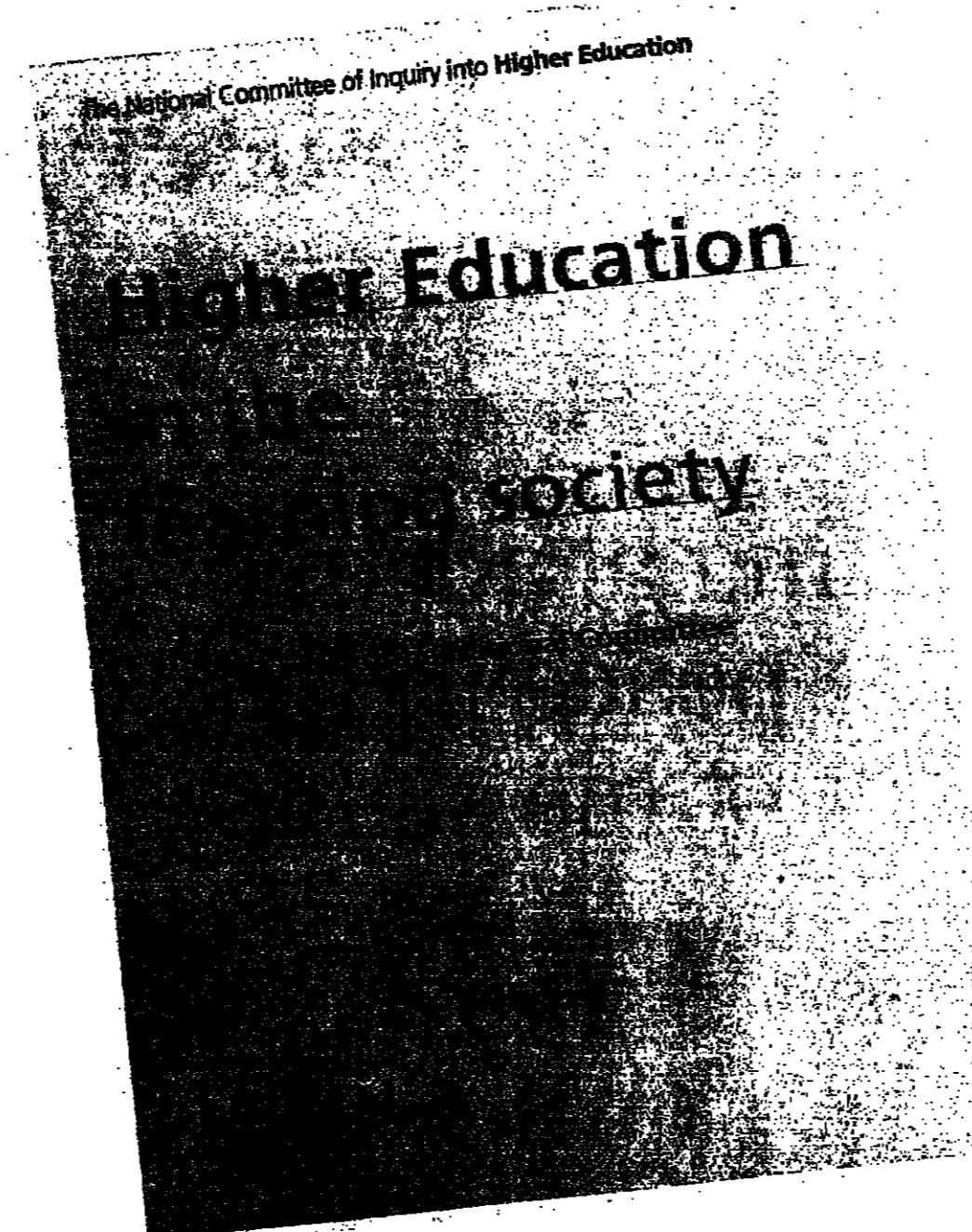
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A new, dignified, job for Peter Mandelson

These are the dog days of August. Parliamentarians have departed to far-off olive groves. News flows as sluggishly as a summer Tuscan brook. Editors and executives lie awake at night worrying about where the next front page is going to come from. But this year the gods have provided merrily: "Dodi" Fayed and Whatshisname for the tabloids; and for us and our relatives, Peter Mandelson, shadow-in-chief, FRCP of the spin-doctoring trade and a source very, very close to the Prime Minister. In the past few days Mr Mandelson has provided stories thick and fast, now, rather less comfortably, he is the story. The attempt yesterday by the nominal Deputy Prime Minister to assert himself only ensures more headlines.

Let us say straightforwardly that Mr Mandelson is right to complain about media self-obsessiveness. There are two essentials in avoiding "spin" or "manipulation" - acute, brave journalism plus pluralism in media ownership; the rest is self-regarding waffle. Mr Mandelson had some right on his side, too, in his run-in at Broadcasting House. When a one o'clock radio programme is desperately anxious to fill its allotted time and even more desperate to distinguish itself from the radio programmes that precede and succeed it, it can lose its capacity to make reliable judgements about significance. Mr Mandelson could, it's true, take lessons from John Prescott

about how to do live radio but his impatience was understandable - during its 100 days Labour has inaugurated substantive changes in policy which deserve the closest attention.

For example, while insults were being exchanged in a broadcasting studio in London, Frank Field, the social security minister, was out in deepest England, apparently making policy on the hoof, on a subject - work and welfare - that will be Labour's greatest opportunity and challenge.

Oddly enough Mr Mandelson's charge that his personality and position are irrelevant would be a lot more plausible if he were merely what he says he is - a spokesperson for the Government. He is much more than that and always has been. This minister of information is also author of a book charting his party's future course. Peter Mandelson's opus, *The Blair Revolution*, co-written with Roger Liddle, is more than a pot-boiler, too. It is a considered statement of ideology and party strategy and, when Mr Mandelson delivers himself of his Fabian thoughts later this week, his words will be well worth listening to for their neo-revisionist content.

It so happens that we share much of Mr Mandelson's analysis, especially his enthusiastic espousal of constitutional change. But he has to understand that is part of the reason why the media buzzes round him like moths round a flame. This man is Tony Blair's Suslov;

he is clever and ambitious; his deceptively casual talk about standing for the National Executive Committee, let alone a thinly coded application for a cabinet minister's position, speaks about a man who feels he has high potential to fill. The real charge against the personality interviewers he contents is that they missed the story, which is why this summer this arch-strategist seems to be treading water.

In Opposition and during the election campaign, it suited Labour and Peter Mandelson to exaggerate the potency of the Millbank machine and to darken his prince-of-darkness persona. The climate

of Tory fear helped Labour win. But now? It is beginning to look as if Labour is trapped here. The Mandelson story feels as if it will not, cannot, go away. Journalists adore it, for obvious reasons. The Tories like it. For them, Mandelson-as-autocratic-fixer has been a gift when they have had very little else to go on. And all the disgruntled Old Labourites like it, too: it gives them an easy scapegoat.

So how do Tony Blair and Peter Mandelson himself, get out of this one? Blaming the media will not wash: Mr Mandelson made his political fortune with the media constituted as they are

and he is going to have to live with it. He knows that and is a very shrewd operator. This may explain why he has been publicly angling for a promotion to Cabinet, which must, on the face of it, lessen his power. The time is fast coming for that "proper job" Mr Blair denied him on 2 May.

A Labour Cabinet would benefit from Mr Mandelson's membership. But when he is moved into it, he must have a serious task. The biggest cabinet jobs - the Treasury, the Foreign Office and John Prescott's super-ministry - are unlikely to be vacant for a very long time. Other obvious jobs, including Culture, Defence or a specific cabinet role on Europe, would be seen by now as a come-down for a man who, in his heart of hearts, aspires to succeed Mr Blair one day as party leader and Prime Minister. Mr Mandelson seems to want - and certainly could deserve - political success in his own right. He knows that the Rasputins of this world never become Tsar. And the minute one casts around for big political roles that he could fill, one solution becomes obvious.

Despite the May landslide, the political project set out in *The Blair Revolution* is far from accomplished. The party requires further drastic surgery and the pain is barely dry on its first batch of constitutional policies. From which position is he going to be best able to accomplish more - as a minister without portfolio, or as a secretary of state making

ing a name on some of the great political reform questions which have hitherto seemed worryingly disjointed? Say there is a November reshuffle. The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster might well fall vacant - how easy it would be to upgrade the job to cabinet rank while giving it real content, combining responsibility for constitutional change with reformation of the machinery of state. To our ears, Secretary of State for Political Reform sounds rather better - and more dignified - than Minister of Spin.

Winner does not take all

A common reaction to the British men's relay team winning silver in Athens was to announce the end of athletic prowess as we have known it. A more reasonable response would have been to say that coming second to an American line-up which was pretty strong was to do very well indeed. For a people who are supposed to be phlegmatic, the British seem to have become terribly volatile about sport. England loses the test, and suddenly Atherton is walking the plank. Barnsley lose their first game in the Premiership and all at once Danny Wilson starts fearing the end of civilisation as Oakwell knows it. Lighten up - somebody has to lose.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The choice we dare not face over drugs

Sir: Steve Boggan writes of "Britain's spiralling descent into drug-fuelled amorality" (8 August). The consumption of drugs does not lead to amorality. It is their illegality that raises their price and makes them attractive to criminal elements, drawing people outside the scope of morality. This is the problem with all prohibition and is simple economics.

We have a choice as a nation. A choice we have been too fearful to consider. The first option is to make the penalties for dealing and possession of illegal drugs so harsh that we impinge upon civil liberties. (Malaysia, for example, imposes the death sentence on dealers.) The second is to make drugs no longer profitable for criminals by legalising them totally. There is no half-way house. Decriminalisation creates more legal grey areas while allowing the gangs to profit.

Neither choice is pleasant or easy, but talk of wars on drugs merely glosses over the fact that criminals are already fighting wars over drugs.

BERTIE CAIRNS
London SW2

Sir: James Humphreys admitted his offence and accepted his punishment. In the article "The cost to society is so great it makes me dizzy" (7 August), he merely casts a wry look at the punishment's ineffectiveness and expense. He makes no claims that, as an educated young man, who was brought up properly, he should be treated any differently from those who are not.

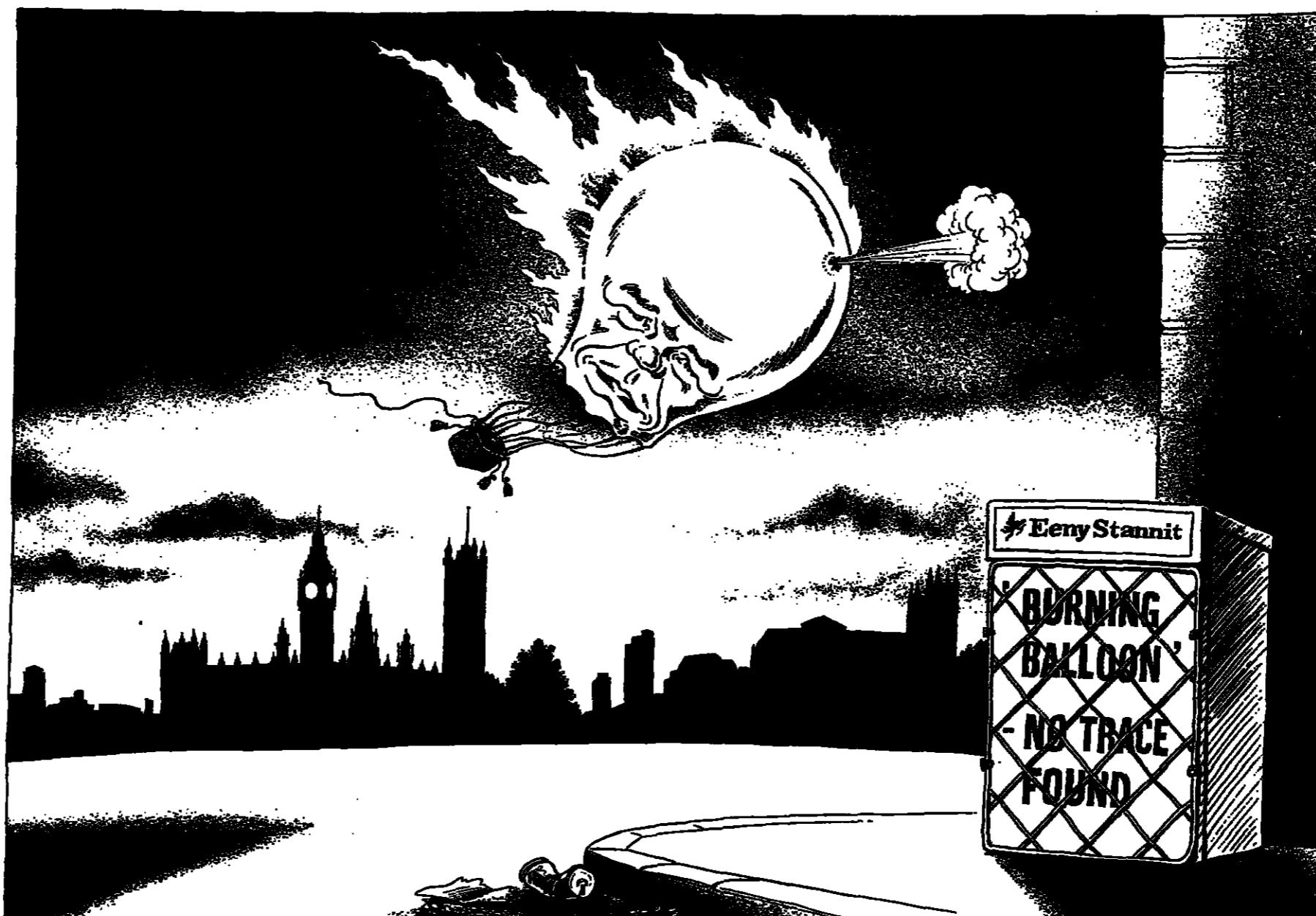
He does claim that society should look at the drugs situation with an open mind and recognise the truth. One million youngsters are still taking ecstasy each week and many more are enjoying marijuana. So the present system is not working.

More that in four young adults are taking non-addictive drugs for fun. That means your son, your daughter, your nephew, your niece, is either doing it, or has friends who are. Just ask them. Are we now saying that more than one-quarter of this generation are criminals?

It is time we started learning to work with human nature. We should face up to our common frailties. Look at what we did, when we were young, for fun. Look at what we are still doing for fun.

It's no good proscribing all the things we don't like and then hiding behind the net curtains in the belief that they have gone away. The fact that James Humphreys has torn the curtain a little may disturb us, but he reveals, not hides, the ugly truth that we are persecuting, instead of helping, our own children.

MICK HUMPHREYS
Taunton, Somerset
The writer is the father of James Humphreys



families with unmarried parents.

Most of the teenagers sleeping rough have left home because of abuse of one kind or another by a stepfather. The rise in teenage prostitutes has the same cause. A great number of teenagers are not only unwanted by any employer, but unloved by any family. They roam the big city estates with nothing to do and all day to do, it looks cannons of our society.

Forty per cent may not be the critical point. As you point out, we still get by. But, since the downgrading of family obligations is an unprecedented social experiment, no one knows when the critical point will come. All religions and all societies have treated the family as the basic social cement which held them together through war, revolution and every other kind of social instability.

We should do well to reckon that we are near the point of no return and revise some of the legislation of the past 30 years before it is too late.

SIR FRED CATHERWOOD
President, The Evangelical Alliance
London SE11

greatest" - John Gielgud (as Romeo), Sybil Thorndike, Ralph Richardson, Alastair Sim - but Paul Robeson in *Othello* exuded enormous emotional power, notably in the scene where he fell to the ground in a paroxysm of jealousy, his huge voice almost gone, yet even his whisper audible throughout the theatre.

EILEEN J PEARCE
Horsham, West Sussex

Sir: It is all very well making Shakespeare ethically correct (Letters, 8 August) but censorship of the text will inevitably follow. How will that American company cope with "The devil damn thee black, thou cream-faced loon!" in *Macbeth*?

Fritz Spiegel
Liverpool

High cost of burning waste

Sir: The director of the Energy from Waste Association (letter, 9 August) suggests that waste incineration is a form of renewable energy generation. The burning of materials which have been produced making use of oil, gas and coal cannot be so described. Furthermore, far more energy can be saved by recycling paper, plastics and textiles than can be obtained by their incineration.

Coopers & Lybrand's recent report to the EC compared various waste treatment alternatives and found that incineration is more

expensive than alternatives. Incineration will create less employment than recycling, have high transport needs, produce carbon dioxide and have the potential to undermine recycling. Landfill sites will still be needed for incinerator ash.

Germany, a country rather more advanced in recycling than the UK, has seen huge declines in the quantities of domestic waste this decade. This has meant that elaborate new incinerators have become "ruinous white elephants" which are costing taxpayers a fortune to keep open and need to import waste from distant sources.

The London moratorium on new incinerator plants is a long-sighted decision. We hope our own county council will heed it and scrap plans for the two proposed waste incinerators in Devon.

MARTIN HUGHES-JONES
Mid Devon Green Party
Sampford Peverell,
Devon

Aricept: waiting for the data

Sir: Your article "The truth about Aricept - a new drug for Alzheimer's" (5 August) is seriously premature in taking so restricted a view of this drug's potential. "The truth" will not be known until we have more experience.

Aricept is currently used only on patients in the comparatively early stages of Alzheimer's disease. The

drug's trial data was based on that patient group, so that is the group for which it is licensed.

That does not necessarily mean - as stated in your article - that it has no effect on more serious cases; nor that "Aricept works only for Alzheimer's; it is not effective for other forms of dementia". There simply isn't any research data available: we don't know the answer either way. It is far too early to rule out categorically further uses for this important development in Alzheimer's treatment.

Your point about funding fears and the patchy availability of the drug across the UK is well made. In Southampton, as in other areas, the use of memory clinics will identify patients likely to benefit from the new therapy and - crucially - monitor their progress over a period of months to ensure that this expensive treatment is concentrated on patients who experience a clear benefit.

We expect patients to stay on Aricept for less time (on average) than was initially predicted on its launch - so the real costs of making it available will be far lower than initially feared. Conclusive evidence that this is the case should reassure reluctant prescribers - and ultimately ensure that this and similar future drug therapies become more widely and evenly available nationwide.

DR DAVID WILKINSON
Director, Thornhill Research Unit
Southampton Community Health
Services NHS Trust
Southampton

And on the seventh day . . .

Sir: Lynne Wallis concludes her article against church-going (8 August) by describing her ideal Sunday. This features a long lie-in, a siesta and a stroll in the park. But just who does she think first advocated Sunday as a day of rest? God, I believe.

SIR NEIL GARDNER
Winchester,
Hampshire

Sir: Here was I thinking that the pursuit of truth, maturity, spirituality, community, laughter and love was a pretty exciting way to spend a Sunday morning, when all the time I should have been sleeping, eating and walking the dog.

At least I now have the comfort of knowing that the last 20 years have been merely a fad.

DEREK BURNSIDE
Exeter

Devon

Deadly fumes

Sir: With the publication of evidence linking car exhaust fumes with heart disease (report, 5 August), taken together with the ever-increasing toll of deaths and serious injuries on our roads, we can now expect the introduction of controls on the advertisement and promotion of automobiles and associated products, along the lines applied to the tobacco industry? I hope so.

NORMAN DAVIES
Farnham,
Surrey

Sir: Each year, on publication of the A-level results, the front page of every broadsheet pictures jubilant young women laughing and hugging each other. While of course they look beautiful, we've had this each year for about a decade.

As concern grows about the decline in young men's school achievement and motivation, could we, this year, have some photos of young men similarly celebrating? Positive images of young men would serve to raise their apparently low self-esteem, partly caused by the growing success of their female peers and reinforced by annual front-page publicity.

CLARE COOPER
London N11

English invaders

Sir: Grant Green's list of invasions requiring apologies (letter, 11 August) is not quite complete. Ironically, he omits the one that occurred in the fifth and sixth centuries and which many of us regard as the most calamitous of all.

It is a little difficult to determine who should be approached for this apology but rather than trouble Helmut Kohl or the President of Lower Saxony at what is a difficult period for them, I am prepared to accept mine from Mr Green, as I see his claims to speak on behalf of the Queen.

GWYN DAVIES
Woodhouse Eaves,
Leicestershire

analysis

As the nation marks 50 years of independence, Peter

Popham
considers how it defies the pressures of global culture, sustained by ideas instilled by its former Imperial rulers

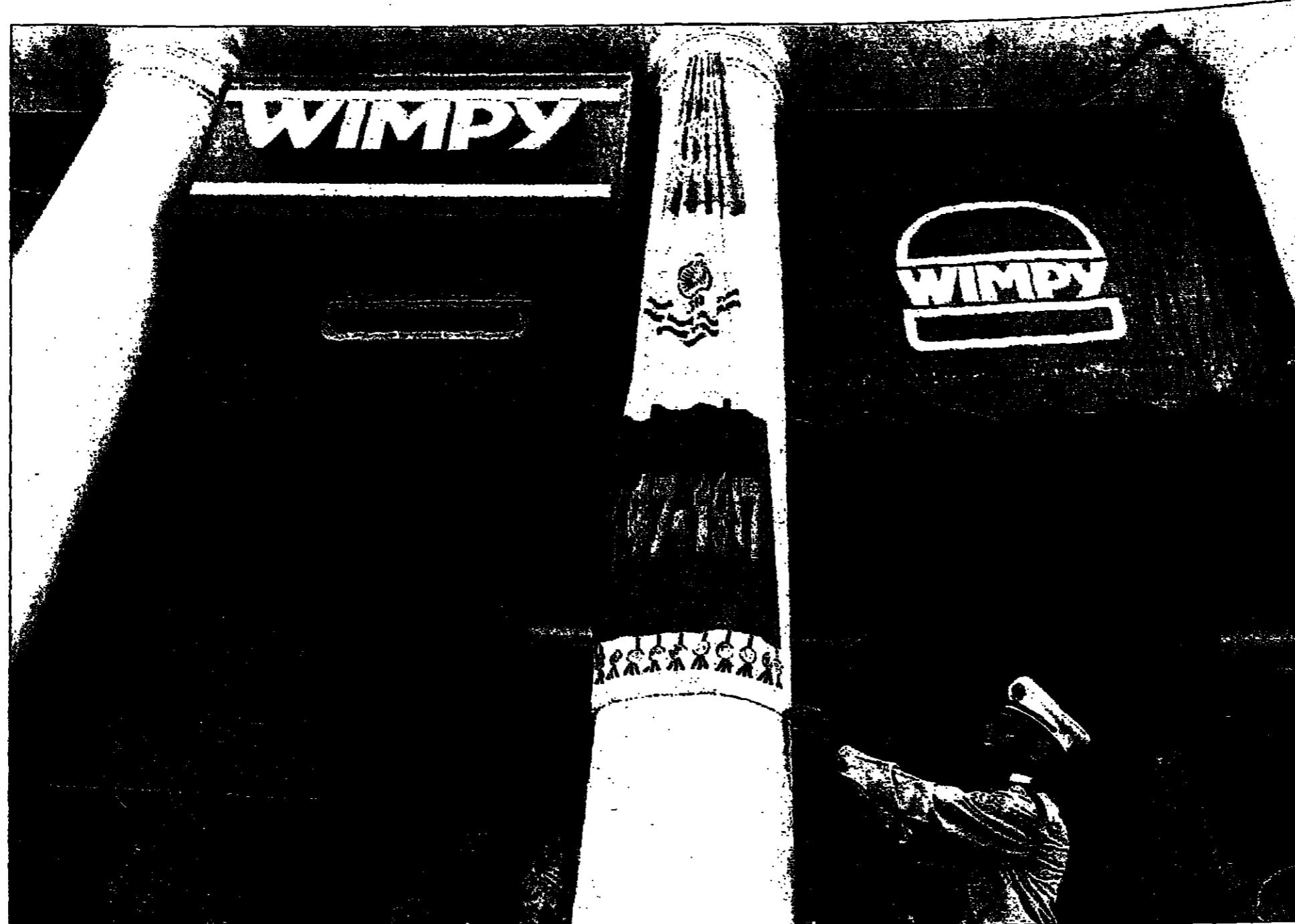
It was buried at the back of the second section of *The Indian Express* last week: a little item to gladden the hearts of all regionalists, anti-globalists, lovers of the culturally distinctive, all enemies of the great god Homogeneity which seems bent on feeding the whole world through a mincer fashioned somewhere between Hollywood and Osaka.

"Bollywood over Hollywood" was the headline. One year ago, Indian film-goers seemed poised to dump their corny, schmaltzy, bump-and-grind Hindi epics, with their wet saris and endless romping song-and-dance routines, and switch en masse to American films – *Independence Day*, *Jurassic Park*, *Batman*. Delhi's first multiplex opened, offering American films in a broadly American ambience.

One year on, the ambience is still sort of American, but the films are Hindi. Except for the occasional blockbuster, the foreign films have failed to put bums on seats. "English cinema," the Express article concluded, "has still not outgrown infant status."

India, it appears, is not going to be a pushover. Writing in a special issue of *The New Yorker* on India in June, Jonathan Foreman remarked on "how well Indian popular culture has resisted American influence at a time when almost everywhere else in Asia Hollywood movies have won huge audiences".

But this Indian resistance to



Signs of the times: outside the fast-food outlet, a banner proclaims half a century of independence

Photograph: Andrew Buurman

The pride of India is written in English

foreign takeover is not restricted to the popular (read plebian, unsophisticated) culture of Bollywood. Other cultural forms have put up equally stout defences: take music, dance, food, dress. India is a big, distinctive and, in all its variety, increasingly self-confident country, and it knows what it likes, which is principally things Indian.

Which brings that being to the conundrum: where does the influence of British culture fit in?

Part of the answer is obvious. As the language of the Empire which ruled India for more than 200 years, English found

an important public role, made more important by the multitude of tongues in the subcontinent. The public function of English is everywhere. On Delhi's roads the rear ends of the autorickshaws are inscribed "Horn please – keep distance". English is appropriate because anyone who can read anything can read that. The television set blaring out Hindi films in the airport arrivals hall is labelled "entertainment". That bit of road that is permanently dug up has a sign in English only, "Inconvenience regretted".

Every shop with even the slightest claim to respectability has its sign in English. And so on.

There is no mystery here. Any army of occupation leaves behind a residue of its presence in official or pseudo-official signage, the semiotic by-products of power; and the longer the army stays, the bigger the pile of leavings will be, unless very single-mindedly destroyed.

New Delhi itself, and the earlier British developments in Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and elsewhere, are similarly easy to grasp. They are imperial impositions, pure and simple. One might feel baffled as to why the British wanted to inscribe the incredible monument that is New Delhi, at the gateway to the Ganga Plains, and one might wonder what amazing hubristic delusion led them to plant here this magnificent construct, Albert Speer's Berlin meets Milton Keynes, thousands of miles from home. But that is a British conundrum, not an Indian one. It was an exclusively British project. "It would only be possible ... under a despotism," wrote Herbert Baker, one of New Delhi's architects. "Hurrah for despotism!" Independent India merely, and very sensibly, refrained from demolishing it, and put it to good use.

India's newspapers are different. No non-Indians are involved in their production. Yet they are never worse than mediocre. Some, such as *The Hindu*, look old-fashioned next to ours, but, like our papers, are colonial papers *par excellence*, often still edited or partially staffed by expatriates.

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English language newspapers are to be found all over Asia. Most are extremely bad. Some are hilariously so, many merely dreary and incompetent assemblages of out-of-date wire reports, lumped together with drivelling local contributions. The exceptional good ones – the *South China Morning Post* in Hong Kong, for example, the *Bangkok Post*, *The Straits Times* in Singapore – are colonial papers *par excellence*, often still edited or partially staffed by expatriates.

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A chance for the C of E to throw off its chains

Far from signalling a turning-away from Christianity, disestablishment could be a force for good, argues Andreas Whittam Smith

I hope that the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, knows how to handle the crisis which he said the other day would be created if Prince Charles were to announce that he was to marry Camilla Parker Bowles. Because the Church holds the view that a divorcee should remain single while his or her original spouse is still alive, Dr Carey would find himself in a dilemma. The Archbishop would either have to say to the Prince: "If you remarry and succeed to the throne, then we would not be able to accept you as 'Supreme Governor' of the Church of England" – or he would have to give up the principle.

Challenging the Prince on this issue would be a poor *casus belli*. For, if pressed, the Archbishop would have to admit that the Church could accept the monarch's divorce or admitted adultery; it is just remarry while the original spouse is still alive that the Church could not take. But Dr Carey would also be forced to explain why so many marriage services involving a divorced already take place in the Church of England. Roughly one in 12 is of this character. Some of his clergy are even prepared to bless gay marriages. In a public disagreement with Charles, the Church would lose the argument so far as public opinion was concerned, and appear weak and confused.

Then, consider Dr Carey's difficulties if the Prince refused to heed his admonition. The monarch is Supreme Governor of the Church of England because it is the state church; because it is "established". What this really means is that the prime minister of the day is in effect the Supreme Governor; it is he or she who can exercise the right to advise the monarch – for instance, to veto the Church's choice of senior bishops. So to say to the Prince that we could not accept him as "Supreme Governor" is to say to the Government that we cannot remain the "established" church.

But this is not at all what Dr Carey wants. He believes that the great advantage of establishment is that it puts the Church close to political power: it allows it to retain its standing in Whitehall and Westminster. He wants the next monarch to be crowned in Westminster Abbey during the traditional coronation service; he values the right of senior bishops to sit in the House of Lords. Equally, though, to mute the Church's disapproval of divorce and remarriage in order to retain its political status would be disastrous. That would be to trade principles for secular advantage.

What, therefore, starts out as a warning by the Archbishop to the heir to the throne becomes, in my view, a warning to the Church itself that its established status is becoming untenable. It is the ludicrous nature of any battle with Prince Charles that makes the the point.

Church leaders argue that disestablishment would be a statement that this country is turning its back on the Christian religion. I don't believe that disestablishment need convey this message. It should be presented as the removal of anachronistic limitations on the power of the Church of England to run its own



The Queen: the last Supreme Governor? Camera Press

this prestige has value. It gives the clergy some standing and makes it a bit easier for them to confront a largely irreligious population, especially the younger age groups, with the message of Jesus Christ. Consider what a hard and lonely life the clergyman leads; consider what stores of faith are required to keep going. To begrudge the vicar in his parish a little prestige seems churlish.

Yet I believe the Church of England would gain great advantage from ceasing to be the national church. Disestablishment would bring in a full stop a long period, measured in centuries, during which it has been on the defensive. All religions have lost ground, but in the case of the Church of England the setbacks have been particularly painful and relentless. It has always found itself supporting the *status quo* and, except in St Augustine's day, has never in its history been an insurgent religion, as even Roman Catholicism was when it was able to return in force to this country in the middle of the 19th century.

For the Church of England to be on its own, self-governing, free from parliamentary oversight, uninvolved in Prince Charles's affairs, would be a liberation. It could shake off its innate conservatism. Bishops could address their congregations and the wider world out of inhibition. They would lose prestige but might, paradoxically, gain self-confidence and speak with greater conviction. The Church of England would be more of an adventure, and all the better for it.

A JOURNEY AROUND THE WHOLE ISLAND OF GREAT BRITAIN



WITH PAUL VALLEY

A sticky moment on the factory floor

I was disappointed. There was no singing of the company song at the Mitsubishi-owned subsidiary and there was no mass aerobics session before work began. But there was, after a lunch of Welsh faggots in the cavernous factory canteen, a "mass communication" at the two o'clock shift hand-over.

Three blue-shirted Welsh managers took it in turns to address workers wearing the Diaplastics company uniform of royal blue sweatshirts and navy blue trousers. The Japanese managing director, Mr Koji Morita, looked on impassively, wearing a blue shirt too, albeit of Jermyn Street quality.

Last Thursday had been the busiest day for nine years: "Twenty-five thousand pieces of product went out," said the first speaker. Corporate relations with Sony were very good. But they are not so happy at Panasonic where Diaplastics managers recently had a meeting which was "not very pleasant". Time for a bit of *laissez*, which is the Japanese, I was told, for "continuous improvement at little or no cost".

Next an update on the factory radio which, following lobbying from the workforce, Mr Morita had recently allowed to be installed after the seven years of silent working in the Japanese manner. "Please don't vandalise the speakers in an attempt to increase volume. It burns out the amp," said Catherine Tweedy, the Diaplastics personnel manager. And, though the workforce had voted to have Virgin Radio, they would have to put up with Radio One because the company only had an FM aerial.

And finally, the matter of chewing gum. Some people, it appeared, were once again chewing gum at work. "If

it continues they will have to be counselled and then may face disciplinary action," Ms Tweedy said.

Counselled? "Our discipline is corrective rather than punitive," she told me afterwards. "The Japanese approach is very paternalistic: we are concerned, we want to know how we can help those having difficulties."

It is serious stuff, the chewing gum issue. When the big Japanese firms like Sony and Panasonic arrived in Wales in the early Eighties they found difficulty in obtaining components which were reliable. "The policy was that zero defects would be tolerated," said Alan Wellington, one of the Welsh general managers at Diaplastics where 300 natives work under six Japanese managers. "It was then unknown among British manufacturers."

Gum is about standards. Customers had complained that gum was found on the side of cabinets or in plastic bags. After a number of warnings it was banned. The workforce accepted the prohibition without demur but now, it seemed, the gum lobby was reasserting itself.

But if so it is the modest of protest against the clinical Japanese management style. As I wandered around the spotless factory chatting at random to staff on the assembly lines, the Welsh workers, a man and woman, even out of earshot of their managers, were distinctly positive.

"They've got a much better approach than British managers," said Lee Hicks, without pausing as he pulled a Sony TV shell from the line to inspect the finish of the robot paint sprayers. "They're more professional. Their work layout is simpler and better thought through."

The little things are important to

Thumbscrews won't work on Bluidy Tam

by Andrew Marr

How can we tell a shrewd and knowing minister from a foolish one? The shrewd minister thinks ahead, and never underestimates the Commons. In particular, such people have a recurrent nightmare: they dream that they are being pursued in Parliament over some misdemeanour or illogically by Thomas Dalyell of the Binns, better known as Tam.

Being Tam's quarry must be horrible, a far crueler and more prolonged fate than that of a Quasimodo stag of Leicestershire fox. As in all nightmares, the pursuit is in ponderous but remorseless slow motion. The stricken, panting minister, followed by a deadly and ceaseless patter of courteously worded questions, oral and written. And whether it has been over the sinking of the *Belgrano*, the sacking of civil servants or the fate of the United Kingdom, the Linlithgow bloodhound tends to draw blood.

Indeed, his most famous ancestor was known as "Bluidy Tam" (an epithet rumoured still to be in use among the Scottish Labour Party). This 17th-century soldier of fortune, and sometime commander of the Russian army, pursued Scottish Covenanters with the same doggedness that, 300 years later, his namesake reserves for Scottish devolutionists. He is also rumoured to have introduced the thumbscrews to Britain – something some former Tory ministers will find no difficulty in believing.

A sense of history is essential if we are to understand the fascinating struggle about to envelop the government as it fights for Scottish devolution. For Tam, Old Etonian socialist, resident of an ancestral pile, science enthusiast, *Independent* obituarist, author and non-Versace-style dresser, is returning to one of his earlier great enthusiasms, the campaign against Scottish devolution.

This is not only the man who gave name to the "West Lothian question" – why should Scottish MPs be able to vote on England-only issues while, under devolution, English MPs cannot vote on Scotland-only issues (West Lothian is his constituency). He also helped, with Robin Cook, to lead the "No" campaign against the Callaghan government's devolution plans in 1979 after having spent eight after night harassing ministers, including the late John Smith, over the legislation in the Commons. And that, quite clearly, is what Tam would like to repeat. Literally – the image of devolution being "a motorway without exit to the break-up of the UK", which he used on the BBC *Today* programme yesterday morning, was one of his favourite parliamentary meta-



Formidable: any attempt to discipline Tam Dalyell could be disastrous

phors in the late Seventies. So how should the Government react to this threat? Many young New Labour MPs, lacking any historical perspective, will be merely dismissive. A quick referendum, followed by a guillotine motion on the subsequent

his own political survival. Further, he will be able to point to the fact that the party is trying to deprive him of the freedom to dissent which others, notably the current Foreign Secretary, enjoyed last time round.

In short, he cannot be

Tony Blair finds a crucial question is out of the hands of the Commons, which he controls. What would he do if the Government were to win one vote, on devolution itself, and lose the second, on the tax-raising powers?

Labour must learn how to handle the irrepressible Member for Linlithgow

legislation, means that Tam is unable to wear the new government down with questions and objections, as he did before. Certainly, the attempts to neutralise Parliamentary opposition make things harder. But Tam will find a way. Just as 20 years ago, I expect, the most damaging attacks will not come from the Tory Opposition benches but from Tam. If ministers think he is going to side into grumpy silence or fail to attract media notice, they are making a very serious error.

An alternative tack, to threaten him with expulsion or deselection, would prove equally fruitless. Tam's ardent Unionism means that he will see this coming struggle as far more important than the question of

ignored and he will not be shut up. Any attempt to discipline him will go disastrously wrong. Like it or not, Tam is going to become a national figure again.

The final Labour response I hear is that he will make no difference. This seems to me complacent. There are, to put it mildly, some difficult devolutionary moments ahead for the Government. The brilliant wheeze of holding a double referendum – a vote on the principle of a Scottish Parliament, and a separate vote on its tax-varying powers – always seemed too clever by half. In June 1996, when the promise was made, it seemed to take a little of the sting out of Tory attacks. But it did so by setting up a future booby trap. Now

that would leave his plans in total disarray. Not only would it demolish ministers' arguments about devolution returning some tax-and-spend responsibility to Scottish politics. It would also destroy the longer-term plan by English Labour ministers to use the Edinburgh Parliament's ability to raise Scottish income tax by up to 3p in the pound to compensate for a future cut in the block grant



SHOCKING NEWS.

This evening, BBC's *Newsround* will highlight the stray dog problem in India. Please watch it if you can.

A minute after the photo above was taken, the dog was beaten, soaked with water and electrocuted.

Her crime? To be born in Asia where dealing with the world's biggest stray dog problem is a cruel affair.

Sometimes, the power supply is not strong enough to kill dogs like this. So some are buried alive.

The World Society for the Protection of Animals is working with local authorities and animal welfare groups to convince them to neuter, not kill. We're helping by supporting shelters and supplying vital veterinary equipment.

£10 is all it takes to humanely neuter and care for one dog. You can help us save dogs like this and other innocent animals. Please send what you can now. Thank you.

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Clarence Kelley

Clarence Kelley had the unenviable task of following J. Edgar Hoover as permanent director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Hoover had not only been the FBI's first director, but had also held the post for 49 years when he died in May 1972. Obsessed with the largely illusory threat of domestic Communism in the United States, Hoover had nevertheless established the FBI as a modern security agency and become a legend. More difficult from his successor's point of view, Hoover had left cohorts of uncritical admirers on the FBI staff. Kelley would have to win over these men to have any chance of making a success of his new job.

Equally difficult, Kelley was appointed at the worst possible time. The collapse of President Richard Nixon's notorious Watergate cover-up in 1973-74 threw harsh and revealing light on years of abuse of power by the US intelligence community. Both the FBI and, in some ways more seriously, the Central Intelligence Agency, in charge of foreign security, were greatly compromised.

Finally, the timing and cir-

cumstances of Kelley's appointment made his efforts to end these abuses and reform the FBI even harder. L. Patrick Gray III, who had been acting director on Hoover's death, was forced to resign in 1973 when it emerged he had destroyed sensitive documents relating to the Watergate conspiracy.

Eventually Nixon's attorney general, John Mitchell, was jailed, the CIA director, Richard Helms, brought under suspicion and the president himself forced into the unprecedented step of resigning – all because of the ramifications of what Nixon's press secretary had at first tried to dismiss as "a third-rate burglary".

Clarence Kelley, nominated by Nixon over 26 other candidates, had plenty of experience of both third-rate and first-rate burglaries, and indeed crime and political corruption of every kind. Originally an FBI man, he had left in 1961 to become chief of police in his home town, Kansas City, Missouri, one of the most notoriously corrupt cities in America.

When Kelley was growing up in the 1920s and 1930s, Missouri was still run by the po-



Kelley: redefining the FBI's role

him to join the Bureau, which he did in the following year.

During the next 20 years he served in ten cities across the United States, apart from a break between 1943 and 1946 when he was drafted into the US Navy. On demobilisation, he briefly worked at the FBI Academy in Virginia, where the dogged, incorruptible traditions of the bureau were first instilled. But his time spent running FBI offices in Birmingham, Alabama, and Memphis, Tennessee in the 1950s, when the civil rights movement was starting its epic progress, was more significant. J. Edgar Hoover, who regarded the whole civil rights campaign as part of the international Communist conspiracy, did nothing to encourage it. Indeed, he despised its leader, Martin Luther King, and illegally tapped his phone, along with those of hundreds of other liberal activists.

Though Kelley may not have shared his boss's paranoia, he had the same racial prejudices of most white Americans of his generation. This became more apparent when he left the Bureau in 1961 to become chief of police in Kansas City. Corruption

as usual, was rife, with his immediate predecessor and four department heads facing indictment for dishonesty.

More serious, in a city where a fifth of the population was African-American, only five per cent of police officers were black. It was hard for a man of Kelley's background and experience in the lily-white FBI to balance the aspirations of the city's blacks against the biggest fears of the white working class from where the comparatively poorly-paid policemen came.

Civil rights activities, which increased in the 1960s, exploded in April 1968 when King was assassinated. Angry, grief-stricken demonstrators in Kansas City, mostly women and children, were dispersed by batons and tear gas. This led to a riot, during which six unarmed blacks were killed. Kelley refused to apologise and no one was brought to book. Though the proportion of black police officers doubled during his 12 years chief, crime was cut by a quarter, his reputation was permanently stained by this incident.

Back at the FBI, Kelley had to weather the storm of protest stirred up by the Watergate revelations, and not only hold the Bureau together but try to transform it into something more appropriate to changed times. The kind of managerial and technical reforms he had accomplished at the Kansas City police department, which Hoover in old age had prevented at the FBI, were repeated to make the Bureau into a more efficient investigative organisation.

Computers, resisted for years because of Hoover's fixation with files, were introduced. Fear of what Hoover's famous files might contain had stopped successive presidents from replacing him, and Congress from criticising him. Now it was revealed that they had consisted mostly of newspaper clippings. Recruiting was also transformed. Agents, who until the 1970s had been almost entirely white men, began increasingly to include blacks, Hispanics and women.

But the real problem remained redefining the role of the FBI and keeping it under proper public control. At his confirmation hearings, Kelley had helped win endorsement by

governments like organised crime, and with white-collar crime, in the wake of Watergate, the FBI had for the first time become a political football.

This finally brought Clarence Kelley down. Critics pointed to the fact that staff at FBI headquarters had grown from 475, when he took over, to more than 900 by 1977. Worse, when it was discovered that Kelley, like Hoover, had used FBI staff to improve his home, Jimmy Carter, campaigning for president in 1976, made an issue of it.

Kelley repaid the trivial sum of less than \$400. But President Carter promised not to reappoint him at the end of his term.

Rather than face this, Kelley retired in 1978 and Carter appointed Judge William H. Webster in his place.

Patrick Reashaw

Clarence Marion Kelley, police officer: born Kansas City, Missouri 24 October 1911; Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation 1973-78; married 1940 Ruby Pickett (died 1975; one son, one daughter); 1976 Shirley Ann Dykes; died Kansas City 5 August 1997.

Elisabeth Höngen

Elisabeth Höngen, the German mezzo-soprano, was a handsome woman with a beautiful, firmly projected voice; but, above all, she was a magnificent singing actress. Karl Böhm, the conductor with whom she worked in Dresden and Vienna, called her "the greatest tragedienne in the world".

When Böhm left Dresden for Vienna in 1942, he engaged Höngen for the Vienna State Opera, where she remained a member of the company for nearly 30 years. She sang in many of the major opera houses of Europe and America, including La Scala, Covent Garden, the Paris Opéra, the Colon, Buenos Aires, and the Metropolitan, usually in operas by Mozart, Wagner, or Richard Strauss, but in Austria and Germany she also took on roles such as Carmen, Lady Macbeth, Princess Eboli in *Don Carlos*, and Amneris in *Aida*.

Höngen was born in Gevelsberg, Westphalia, in 1906. At university in Berlin she studied German Language and Literature, as well as the violin, musicology, and singing at the Berlin Hochschule für Musik. Her voice professor was Hermann Weissenborn. She made her operatic debut in 1933 at Wuppertal, then in 1935 she moved to Düsseldorf and in 1940 to the Dresden State Opera. There she came under the influence of Karl Böhm, the Music Director. Under his baton she sang Klytemnestra in *Elektra* and Herodias in *Salomé*, roles in which she later became world-famous; she took part in Monteverdi's *Orfeo* in the performing version made by Carl Orff, and sang in the premiere of *Die Zauberin* (1942), an

opera by Heinrich Sutermeister based on *The Tempest*. Höngen first appeared in Vienna as Ortrud in *Lohengrin* in 1942 and the following year became a member of the company. She sang Lady Macbeth during the "Verdi Week" of 1943 (Paul Schoeffler and Hans Hotter alternated as Macbeth), and a few weeks later could be heard as Carmen, or Marcellina, in *Le nozze di Figaro*, or in one of her Wagner roles.

She first visited La Scala in 1943, singing Klytemnestra, and returned in 1949/50 for Fricka in *Das Rheingold* and *Die Walküre*, and Waltraute in *Götterdämmerung*. In 1947 she came to Covent Garden with the VSO company, and sang Dorabella in *Così fan tutte*, Marcellina and Herodias. She did not return to Covent Garden until 1960, when she gave an unforgettable performance of Klytemnestra.

At the Salzburg Festival,

Höngen appeared as Gluck's *Orpheus* and Mozart's *Marcellina* (1948), Clorinda in Strauss's *Capriccio* (1949), the tragic heroine of Britten's *The Rape of Lucretia* (1950) and as Bébête the maid in the world premiere of Heino Erb's *Julietta* (1959), an opera based on Kleist's story "Die Marquise von O...". She took part in the first post-war Bayreuth Festival in 1951, singing Fricka and Waltraute. The following year she made her Metropolitan debut in New York as Herodias, and also sang Klytemnestra and Waltraute. Visiting the Paris Opéra with the VSO in 1953, she sang not only Klytemnestra, but the Third Lady in *Die Zauberflöte* as well.

Meanwhile, in Vienna Högen was adding to her repertoire

Elizabeth Forbes

Elisabeth Höngen, opera singer: born Gevelsberg, Westphalia 7 December 1906; died Vienna 7 August 1997.

she sang Baba the Turk in *The Rake's Progress* (she was a very fine comedian), the Countess in Tchaikovsky's *Queen of Spades* and, in 1955, the Nurse in Strauss's *Die Frau ohne Schatten*, as part of the celebrations for the opening of the rebuilt State Opera. Conducted by Karl Böhm and magnificently cast, this performance was one of the great operatic experiences of my life; Höngen's malevolent Nurse contributed no small share to the general effect, as the recording made shortly afterwards bears witness.

Her other new roles in Vienna included Mme de Croisy, the Old Prioress in Poulenc's *Dialogues des Carmélites*; Génieve in *Pélléas et Mélisande* (which she also sang at La Scala); Marthe in *Faust*, another excellent comic performance; and Julie in Gottfried von Einem's *Santons Tod*. She continued to sing Klytemnestra and Herodias, in Frankfurt, Geneva, Monte Carlo, Strasbourg and Berlin.

Towards the end of the Sixties she played character parts with her customary dramatic skill: Grandmother Bura in *Intimita*, Mary in *Der fliegende Holländer*, Ludmilla in *The Bartered Bride* and the Fortune-teller in *Arabella*. She retired from the stage in 1971, having taught at the Vienna Academy of Music since 1957.

She recorded all her great roles: Lady Macbeth (live from Vienna), Marcellina, Fricka, Herodias, Klytemnestra and, best of all, the Nurse.

Elizabeth Forbes

Elisabeth Höngen, opera singer: born Gevelsberg, Westphalia 7 December 1906; died Vienna 7 August 1997.

The greatest tragedienne in the world: Höngen, right (as Klytemnestra), with Gerda Lammert (Elektra), rehearsing Elektra at Covent Garden, 1960

Photograph: Hulton Getty

Without a thought for his own safety, and with machine gun fire and heavy mortar bombs exploding all around him, Hinton led his small band of men on to the waterfront which was heavily defended by big guns. He ran to within several metres of the nearest gun. The gun fired, just missing him. With every ounce of strength in his weary body, he hurled two grenades, one after the other, at the gun. He put his hand in his pocket and drew another grenade. It was his last. As he threw it he was severely wounded in the stomach by a German Spandau, and was captured.

Hinton was one of the first to enlist when the Second World War broke out. He joined New Zealand's 20 Battalion, the Canterbury Regiment, and was posted to Egypt and later Greece. In April 1941 the war in Europe was some 19 months old. The New Zealanders had been in Greece for six weeks as reinforcements to help the Greek nation rout the Germans from their beloved country. However Greek resistance had crumbled swiftly as the Germans occupied Greece, entering on 6 April, and the retreat and evacuation of Allied troops had to be done as quickly as possible. By late April the Germans had captured all the evacuation beaches and ports except Kalamata. Hinton's heroic actions had an inspiring effect on the troops waiting in the olive groves for the destroyers, cruisers, and merchant ships to take them to safety. By the end of the morning the Germans had virtually been driven out of Kalamata, and the New Zealanders had taken more than 150 prisoners.

However, the Germans, realising, forced their way back into the town, and, using their superiority in numbers, armour and artillery, inflicted heavy casualties. The following day, the local army commander, Brigadier Parrott, to avoid needless loss of life, surrendered to the Germans.

The gallant counter-attack which Hinton led with such vigour and skill, rightly earned for him the highest award for valour – the Victoria Cross. As Sir Geoffrey Cox who himself fought in Greece, said: "Jack Hinton was a product of the times in which he lived, the New Zealand of the 1920s and 1930s, which shaped him, and which produced the soldier, who, given only one chance to fight, did so with consummate daring."

John Daniel Hinton, "J.D.", to his friends, was born in 1909 at Colac Bay in Southland, at the bottom of the South Island in New Zealand. He was always tough. He had to be. He had left home at the age of 12 and survived for a time on his earnings as a galley hand on board an Antarctic whaling ship. He later became an errand boy and swagman during the Great Depression. Although his early life was one of extreme hardship, it was also full of adventure. By the time war broke out in September 1939 he was a foreman with the Public Works on the West Coast of the South Island.

When he returned to New Zealand after four and a half long years as a prisoner-of-war he became a publican, managing hotels throughout New Zealand. He retired in Christchurch in 1980.

As the representative of a generation which displayed courage and resolution, Jack Hinton received full military honours at a state funeral in Christchurch.

Gabrielle McDonald

John Daniel Hinton, soldier and publican: born Colac Bay, New Zealand 17 September 1909; VC 1941; twice married; died Christchurch, New Zealand 28 June 1997.

Robert Spencer

Robert Spencer was a leading figure in the early music field, equally accomplished as a singer, lutenist, guitarist, musicologist and teacher. This is the more remarkable since he only started his musical education at the age of 25 when he abandoned his job as a librarian.

Spencer's earliest memories were of his mother playing the piano, but even as a very small child he had been interested in singing, and as a schoolboy he was always an enthusiastic member of choral groups. When he was 17 his father gave him a guitar and, although he never had a lesson, he managed to make a recognisable sound.

In 1955 he went to a recital of poetry interspersed with lute solos by Julian Bream at the old L-shaped Purcell Room, in London, and was enchanted. That same year he attended the Haslemere Festival for the first time – cycling all the way from Woodford Green – and heard the German lutenist Walter Gerwig play in several of the programmes. At a party following one of the concerts he met Gerwig, who gave him some initial instruction. So, be-

gan as a chartered librarian. But he found he was clock-watching and thinking about music all the time. So he consulted Thurston Dart, then Professor of Music at Jesus College, Cambridge, as to how he could get a scholarship to have some musical training. He once explained to me: "It was a bit of a nerve to approach someone like Dart, but I knew a scholarship was the only option because I wasn't good enough for one of the colleges, and in any case had no money for board and lodgings, even if they gave me tuition free." Dart recommended him for a scholarship to the Dartington Music School where he stayed for three years with tuition, board and lodgings all found.

Before going to Dartington, Spencer had had some singing lessons with Fabian Smith and also sang in choirs and choirs in the UK, Europe, the United States and Japan. Spencer and Nott-Bower were married in 1960.

In addition to their duo recordings, Spencer's own career went from strength to strength. His first engagement was playing the lute for the Royal Shakespeare Company at Stratford-on-Avon and in 1961

he was a founder member of the Bream Consort. He accompanied the legendary countertenor Alfred Deller on many tours abroad and was a member of the Deller Consort from 1974 to 1979. More recently he toured Europe and Canada with James Bowman. He also once accompanied Dame Janet Baker for some songs with lute in a recording for EMI. From 1963 he performed regularly at the Haslemere Festival.

Spencer taught at the Royal Academy of Music in London for 23 years. He went there originally to teach lute and then took a class in English song. He later started a similar class at the Royal College of Music and taught at numerous conservatories and summer schools both in the UK and abroad. He was regarded as a most sensitive and perceptive teacher. "These are really classes in communication," he said, "as to how you get the message across to the audience. It's no use telling a student, 'Do as I do.' Their interpretation has to stem from their own minds."

Apart from all his performing and teaching activities, Spencer's musicalological researches are equally impressive and lack no respect from the pundits. He contributed numerous articles on a variety of subjects from rediscovered manuscripts to historical evidence gained from paintings. He also published several facsimiles and editions concerning the lute and guitar.

Bob Spencer was possessed of a warm and generous nature which endeared him to his many friends and students alike. He was always available to help with a query, often drawing instantly from the veritable mine of information lodged in his head. He was also incredibly optimistic. Even a few weeks ago, when he knew he was dying of cancer, he told me that he was happy because he had had a wonderful life in music, a wonderful family, wonderful friends – and no regrets.

Margaret Campbell

Robert Allen Spencer, singer, lutenist, guitarist, musicologist and teacher: born Ilford, Essex 9 May 1932; married 1960 Jill Nott-Bower (two sons); died Woodford Green 8 August 1997.

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Photograph: Hulton Getty

er Fleming, novelist, creator of "James Bond"; 1964: Thomas Edward Driberg, Baron Bradwell, journalist and politician; 1976: Henry Fonda, actor; 1982: *On Our Way* the Crusaders, statesman, committed socialist; 1982: William Blaikie, poet and painter; 1982: George Stephenson, locomotive engineer; 1984: William Daniel Conybeare, geologist; 1985: Sir William Jackson Hooker, botanist; 1985: James Drummond, historical painter; 1987: Dr Georg Curtius, philologist; 1988: James Russell Lowell, poet, critic and diplomat; 1989: John Philip Holland, designer of the submarine; 1943: Arthur Griffith, Irish nationalist and president of Sinn Féin; 1922: Leo Janácek, composer; 1928: Thomas Mann, novelist; 1955: Ian Lancast-

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OF THE YEAR

Business news desk: tel 0171-293 2636 fax 0171-293 2098
DEPUTY BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: MICHAEL HARRISON

Fund managers build up their cash piles

Tom Stevenson
Financial Editor

Fund managers are turning their backs on shares in favour of cash and gilts, figures showed yesterday. They are sceptical of the Bank of England's belief that interest rates are high enough to keep inflation in check and worried that economic growth will slow over the next year.

According to a survey of institutional intentions by Merrill Lynch, the investment bank, most fund managers believe almost all the world's equity markets will fall over the next three months. As a result they

are adding to their cash piles for the first time since last July.

In 1997, cash has made up between 5 and 6 per cent of the typical pension fund portfolio, the highest level of liquidity since 1991. Bonds of government bonds have also outnumbered sellers by 22 per cent.

The money managers' concerns were allayed to an extent yesterday by relatively buoyant producer prices data which showed the price of manufactured goods rose by 0.2 per cent in July, giving an annualised rate of output price inflation of just 1.4 per cent. The FTSE 100 index closed unchanged at 5,031.9.

Economists said once account was taken of Budget increases in excise duties, the underlying picture was of very subdued inflation at the factory gate level. Input prices, meanwhile, continued to fall thanks to the strong pound, which yesterday closed almost 3 pence higher at DM2.95 after last week's heavy falls.

But the scepticism of the fund managers was borne out by figures yesterday from the British Retail Consortium (BRC) showing generally buoyant growth in high-street sales as building society windfalls started to find their way into home improvements and one-

off purchases of dishwashers and computers.

According to Brijesh Shah, global strategist at Merrill Lynch, US mutual funds are holding a lower proportion of cash than at any time in the past 20 years. Merrill Lynch has turned bearish on the London market, largely as a result of worries about Wall Street, where it believes the market is poised for a sharp correction.

The outlook for global equities is dominated by Wall Street. Interestingly, in our US fund manager survey, the number of managers who expect inflation to rise over the coming

Jones Index and signs that the bond market is heading lower as fears of inflation rise.

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recent rate rise to 7 per cent with a hint that rates would not have to rise further in the short term. Merrill Lynch's survey, conducted on the three days before the rate rise, showed managers expecting base rates of 7.4 per cent a year's time.

Merrill Lynch takes an even more pessimistic view of the cost of money, believing rates could rise higher than that.

"With continental European economic activity accelerating, UK growth and base rates could go higher than most of these managers are expecting," Mr Shah said.

Recovery in Europe provided the only bright spot in the

survey for stock markets with 21 per cent more fund managers expecting continental equities to rise over the next three months than fall over that period. More investors expect falls than rises elsewhere, with the greatest degree of pessimism reserved for Pacific Basin markets outside Japan.

Only Hong Kong is viewed as a safe haven in the Far East, with the rest of the area perceived to be paying the price for the rapid growth of the late 1980s and 1990s which resulted in a property boom. In Malaysia, the amount of retail space in the country is expected to double over the next two years.

Scottish to renew energy assault

Chris Godsmark
Business Correspondent

ScottishPower is preparing to accelerate its assault on the residential energy market after being given approval from Offer, the industry watchdog, to bring forward the start of domestic power competition in southern Scotland and its North West territory, which includes North Wales.

The group will now join the first wave of electricity suppliers alongside Eastern, Yorkshire and Seaboard, which are able to offer customers the choice of supplier when the market opens on 1 April 1998. Offer is expected to announce ScottishPower's accelerated timetable later this week.

The group has told Offer it is moving the testing of its new computer systems from January 1998 to October this year. The change means that plans to start competition in its regions next May have been brought forward to April.

The improvement affects the group's 3 million customers in the southern half of Scotland and in Manweb, its regional electricity subsidiary in North Wales and the North West. Competition is being phased in by postcode area, with customers in Motherwell among the first to be able to choose alternative suppliers.

Under rules drawn up by Offer, ScottishPower will now be allowed to compete for customers in the areas opened up by the three other power companies in the first wave. Because so many regional electricity companies have been unable to introduce competition on time, Offer has banned latecomers from competing in opened-up regions until their own systems have been successfully introduced.

The other three electricity groups in the first wave were already planning to exploit their advantage by marketing in other areas. ScottishPower wanted to join the early starters after its aggressive attack on the emerging domestic gas market.



Briefly steering clear of interest rate worries, Eddie George, the Governor of the Bank of England (above), takes the helm of the Sarah Rose II, a wide-beam riverboat especially designed for people with disabilities. It is operated by Grooms Holidays, a division of the national charity, the John Grooms Association for Disabled People. Mr George, a long-standing

supporter of John Grooms, said: 'This latest addition to Grooms Holidays will be a valuable asset indeed. Sarah II will offer more people with disabilities a wonderful way of taking in some of London's history and enjoying the unique atmosphere of the River Thames.'

Photograph: John Voss

Leicester Tigers plan to go public

Clifford German

Season ticket-holders at Leicester Tigers, the winners of the 1997 Pilkington Cup, will get the chance to invest in the rugby club this autumn if plans announced yesterday to convert to a publicly quoted company proceed. More than 9,000 holders have already renewed their membership by paying a minimum of £95 for a season ticket, but membership lists will close on 31 August and a rush of new applications seems likely before the deadline.

The only director who did not choose to cash in was John Clare, chief executive. He retained £162,000 from share option sales last year but sold less than 10 per cent of his total. However, he made £400,000 from share option sales in the previous financial year, more than any other director. Last year his total pay fell from £438,000 to £352,000.

Dixons has enjoyed an excellent year with its sales boosted by rising consumer confidence and the impact of the building society windfalls. Last month it reported soaring like-for-like sales gains, saying its stores were feeling the benefit of the windfall money as soon as the cheques hit customers' dorms.

The group will create 3,000 jobs this year as it invests £100m opening stores across its portfolio of formats which includes Currys, PC World and The Link.

Only paid-up members will be allowed to vote on the professional playing staff.

change of status under rules set by the Registrar of Industrial and Provident Societies which require two meetings. The first meeting to be held on 11 September needs the approval of a 75 per cent majority of the members voting, to be followed within four weeks by a simple majority.

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COMMENT

'For every black cloud worrying a British investor there is a silver lining to console his optimistic colleague on Wall Street'

Market takes a pause on the wall of worry

Those who believe in the old adage that bull markets have to climb a wall of worry must conclude that London has yet to reach the top. Yesterday the Footsie shrugged off Friday night's Wall Street wobble, the biggest one day fall in Tokyo this year and a rash of stocks going ex-dividend to retain its composure...

There are plenty of doomsayers around to keep the climb going starting with Merrill Lynch whose latest survey shows institutional investors worrying about interest rates still heading upwards, economic activity declining in a year's time and world stock markets falling over the next three months.

As a result, they are shunning equities, putting more cash aside than at any time since 1991 and heading into the perceived haven of gilt. For the contrarian investor, it is as good a reason for the bull market to continue its stampede as Alan Greenspan's famously mis-timed "irrational exuberance" remarks when the Dow languished in relative terms, at 6,000.

For every black cloud worrying a British investor, however, there is a silver lining to console his optimistic colleague on Wall Street. Over there, despite Friday's jitters, professional investors have bought into the dangerous belief that there's been what stock market analysts call a paradigm shift - in other words that this time things will be different.

It rarely is, and the fact that mutual funds' cash piles are at their lowest level for 20

years, that everyone is saying the economic cycle is dead and are running scared of being out of the market while it powers ahead is the strongest sign yet that it's going to end in tears on Wall Street.

The bond market knows it and has been heading the wrong way for some time now. It would be surprising if retail sales figures on Wednesday did not confirm all the recent data pointing to a strengthening economy and, if so, it is a racing certainty that the Fed's Open Market Committee will nudge interest rates higher either at its meeting next week or at the end of September.

So where should the smart money be heading? In Europe profits growth looks set to accelerate especially from the export sector benefiting from its unaccustomed competitiveness, interest rates look likely to remain low and no-one thinks the stock markets are going anywhere. It is hard to think of a more propitious backdrop.

Not a pretty Pitcher at United Utilities

The chart at the bottom of this page shows why Sir Desmond Pitcher's time is up at United Utilities. When things are going right, the City can be the most wonderfully tolerant of places, blind to even the most extravagant examples of empire building by domineering executive chairmen. When things are going wrong, as they are in the

North West, then share price underperformance of the sort Sir Des has presided over, is more than enough excuse to don the black cap.

The group's recently-departed chief executive, Brian Staples, recognised this and resolved that if United Utilities was to restore its stock market rating then it had better get rid of Sir Des. Unfortunately for the Staples camp, Sir Des got his retaliation in first, ousting his opponent while the balance of power on the United Utilities board still rested in his favour.

As so often happens, however, Sir Des emerged victorious from the struggle only to discover that he too had been fatally wounded. Far from clearing the air, the departure of yet another chief executive has merely heightened the atmosphere of crisis surrounding the boardroom.

Were Sir Des the sort who goes quietly then he would be picking up the watch, the vote of thanks and gold medal for utility services at today's unscheduled board meeting in Warrington. His determination to stand firm in the face of overwhelming opposition from institutional shareholders makes a more ignominious departure inevitable, if not today then certainly this side of Christmas.

If the group has any sense it will revert to a combination of non-executive chairman and chief executive. The chairman will have to come from the outside since the only two credible internal candidates - Sir Peter Mid-

leton and Sir Dick Evans - have full time jobs at BZW and British Aerospace respectively.

Even then, the company will not be out of the woods. The chief executive's job also presents a problem since, in the rush to get rid of Mr Staples, the best replacement Sir Des could come up with at short notice was someone who only intends to serve out another two years himself.

It is not a happy picture. Mixing water and electricity was always asking for trouble as Sir Des's vision of the multi-utility has shown. His legacy could prove just as awkward.

Cockburn's port of call ...

Will Cockburn is a canny Scotsman but there is a just an outside danger that he could find himself in between a rock and a hard place. If the British Telecom-MCI merger does not go ahead then the job that he is quitting W H Smith to take up also disappears into the ether.

The job in question, managing director of BT's domestic telephone business, will only exist if Concert - the name given to the grand transatlantic telecoms merger with MCI - proceeds and gives Sir Peter Bonfield a wider international role to play.

Michael Hepher, who used to have the managing director's job at BT, soon found

that the organisation was not big enough to accommodate him after Sir Peter arrived as chief executive.

Without Concert, where do Mr Cockburn and, for that matter, BT go? Well, Mr Cockburn has almost certainly burnt his boats at W H Smith even though he remains there until the end of September while the search for a new chief executive drags on. Mr Cockburn's management style did not make him many friends at the bookseller and there will be few tears shed at his departure.

As four internal candidates at W H Smith jockey for the top job the talk now is of a break-up with the US business. Waterstone's and the Virgin Our Price chain split off from the core high street chain.

If Concert does not proceed - and we are told there are some institutions who do not want it at any price - then BT has some serious thinking to do. Should it too do the splits and demerge into a transmission network on the one hand and a trading business on the other? Or should it use its cash to buy direct into the local US telecoms market, which is where everyone says the real money is?

BT is under intense pressure to amend the terms of the MCI merger. MCI is sticking to its line that their agreement prevents renegotiation. Perhaps Mr Cockburn should try and help out. Otherwise he could become the first managing director of BT to receive a pay-off before he even started the job.

Crédit Suisse and Winterthur merger creates £21bn giant

Tom Stevenson
Financial Editor

Crédit Suisse is to merge with Swiss life and general insurance company Winterthur to form one of the world's largest financial services groups, with a market capitalisation of SFc20bn (£21bn).

The link is the latest move in a wave of consolidation expected to sweep Europe's financial sector in the run-up to monetary union.

The bank, Switzerland's second-largest, announced the proposed merger as it brought forward half-year profits showing a 70 per cent jump in profits to SFc1.4bn (£579m). The sharp rise, which followed a similar improvement last week from Union Bank of Switzerland, was attributed to buoyant financial markets, domestic restructuring and the weakness of the Swiss currency.

Crédit Suisse has been looking for a partner since its proposals to merge with UBS were rejected last year. Under the terms of the deal Winterthur will remain autonomous and retain its own name.

Speculation about the future

of Winterthur increased over the weekend when Martin Ebner, one of Switzerland's leading shareholder activists, said he planned a takeover of the company in which he had built up a 30 per cent stake through BZ Bank. He offered a takeover by Crédit Suisse as an alternative and said yesterday's news was a "welcome solution at a very fair price".

The deal was also described by Winterthur chairman Peter Spaeth as "totally fair". He insisted the transaction was a merger of the two companies not a takeover, describing the planned share swap as convenient for tax reasons.

The support of Mr Ebner is important because 98 per cent of the insurer's shareholders approved to the deal. Support was also forthcoming from Swiss Reinsurance, which holds about 5 per cent of Winterthur's shares.

Mr Ebner also holds around a quarter of UBS's shares and has been locked in a legal battle with the bank for the past three years over the introduction of a new share structure.

Following the merger, Mr Ebner is expected to control

around 7 per cent of the new group's shares, depending on whether he accepts Crédit Suisse shares for all his holding.

The merger would establish the group as one of the world's top providers of banking and insurance services. The group would manage funds of about SFc700bn, have about 15 million clients and is expected to make profits in 1998 of SFc3.49bn.

If the deal is approved, Crédit Suisse would make Winterthur shareholders an offer under which 7.3 Winterthur shares would be exchanged for one Crédit Suisse share.

Approval of the deal could depend on the reaction of the US regulatory authorities, according to Salomon Brothers' banking analysis John Leonard. "One uncertainty may relate to Winterthur's US business - perhaps 15 per cent of the total - as US regulators are unlikely to the principle of bancassurance," he said.

European Union officials are also expected to take a close look at the deal, with sources saying yesterday the merger appeared sufficiently large to require examination.

Barings has not approached



Richard Clothier (right): Has been preparing a defence against a bid

Nigel Cope
City Correspondent

As many as six merchant banks have compiled break-up plans for Dalgety, the beleaguered Felix and Winalot pet food company whose shares have been hit by two profits warnings in three months.

ING Barings has compiled a "book" on the company and is understood to be talking to rival food groups about a £900m break-up bid. Other banks have prepared similar documents and have been hawking them around the food sector, trying to garner support.

Barings has not approached

Banks circle over Dalgety

the company yet and Lazard's, Dalgety's financial adviser, has discouraged the group's chief executive, Richard Clothier, and its chairman, Sir Denys Henderson, from talking to the bank.

Barings is understood to have approached several large food groups such as Nestlé, Associated British Foods and Ralston

Purins of the United States to see if they would be interested in buying all or part of the group. Several brokers have issued circulars placing a break-up bid of 350p per share on the group, which would value it at £1bn. Dalgety's shares rose sharply yesterday on news of a possible bid approach, closing 16p higher at 266.5p.

Photograph: Kalsip Lethiga

One analyst said: "It wouldn't surprise me if the banks were circling Dalgety. It has been a takeover target for two or three years and I would have thought every investment bank is looking at it." However, the analyst suggested it would be unlikely for any food group to be interested in the whole of Dalgety, which spans pet food, food ingredients, distribution and a pig meat company. "They've got some good assets but it would not be simple to sort out."

Dalgety has been expecting a bid and has been preparing its defence in conjunction with Lazard's and its broker, Cazenove.

Diagonal IT staff warning

Cathy Newman

Diagonal, the IT services group which came to the main market earlier this year, has become the latest IT consultancy to warn of a shortage of skilled staff in the industry.

However, Diagonal played down the impact of the millennium on profits in the IT services sector, warning that business from technological problems related to the millennium would only contribute to growth in the short term. The company has decided not to compete for contracts to adapt computer systems for the new millennium, saying there are too many companies chasing too little business.

Unveiling an 82 per cent increase in profits before tax and flotation costs to £4.2m, Mark Samuels, executive chairman, said the dearth of experienced consultants in the marketplace had been an "interesting challenge". Wages have increased dramatically, with Diagonal hiring out its employees for as much as £1,000 a day.

Mr Samuels said the company had benefited from strong revenue growth in the division which installs software for the German company SAP. Diagonal, which made two strategic acquisitions earlier this year - Sequellogic and Conos Resource - is unlikely to make any further purchases in the short term.

The reign of King Des draws to a close

The chairman of United Utilities is expected to fight to save his job at a specially convened board meeting in London this lunchtime. With big shareholders massing in the wings to force his early retirement before the official date in 2000, even his most loyal supporters inside the company are suggesting his days at the helm must soon be numbered.

Though the board meeting may not decide the issue today, the level of shareholder concern is such that Sir Desmond's tenure as executive chairman looks almost certain to end before Christmas. Soundings of City investors were taken last week by Sir Peter Middleton, chairman of BZW and a United non-executive director. Sir Peter was left in no doubt about

the unhappiness over Sir Desmond's role in the shock ousting last month of Brian Staples as chief executive.

As one institution put it yesterday: "We'd prefer it if he left now. But you have got to be pragmatic about these things. If he goes in three months' time it's still a lot better than 2000."

United is also under intense pressure to replace Sir Desmond with a non-executive chairman, avoiding future conflicts between the chairman and chief executive.

For Sir Desmond the loss of shareholder confidence so soon after the sacking of Mr Staples

has a bitter irony. Though Mr Staples' reputation in the City was somewhat mixed, it was the exposure of the machiavellian goings on inside United's Warrington and Mayfair headquarters which cast doubt of Sir Desmond's own position.

His proud championing of United's "Progress with Responsibility" initiative at the group's results earlier this summer took on a hollow ring as stories of frequent rows between the two executives became public. The news that Mr Staples had left his partner to live with Anne-Marie Smith, Sir Desmond's secretary, did little to improve matters.

With hindsight the reign of King Des, former head of Llewellyn Woods and perhaps the most influential figure in affluent North-West business circles, began to falter more than a year ago. United launched a controversial long-term share bonus plan which could give executives payoffs worth up to 87 per cent of salary. At the same time Sir Desmond received a 21 per cent basic pay rise, taking his salary to £310,000. Even the normally relaxed Association of British Insurers came out publicly against the scheme, suggesting several big investors thought it was "over generous and over complex".

You could say Des did more to highlight the executive pay problem than anyone else, except perhaps Cedric Brown at British Gas. He single-handedly exposed the issue of long-term share bonuses and showed the lack of teeth in the Greenbury proposals, "said one big shareholder yesterday. It was also the last thing the utility companies



Sir Desmond Pitcher: There is unhappiness in the City about his role in ousting Brian Staples as chief executive

needed as they stepped up their fight against Labour's proposed windfall tax.

By the group's annual shareholder meeting in July 1996 Sir Desmond had been crowned "king of the fat cats", taking the accolade from a no doubt relieved Mr Brown. Ian McCartney, Labour's employment spokesman, even turned up to

hold a mock coronation ceremony on a protestor wearing a pantomime cat suit for, as he put it, "services to fat catery".

Though executives lost the vote on a show of hands, reflecting the anger of small investors, they won the reluctant backing of City institutions. The scheme was eventually amended after intense shareholder pressure, thought it was "over generous and over complex".

It could be argued that the scheme was a success, as United's share price has risen from 100p in July 1996 to 130p in July 1997, though it has been volatile. The company has also won a number of contracts, including the £1.8bn water supply deal with North West Water for Norwell.

United's success has been built on a combination of strong management, good financial performance and a strong balance sheet. The company has also won a number of contracts, including the £1.8bn water supply deal with North West Water for Norwell.

United's success has been built on a combination of strong management, good financial performance and a strong balance sheet.

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Jobs and US economy offer road maps to duration of the boom

How long can the boom continue? The question is of great importance to financial markets as much of the present buoyancy of equities and sterling is predicated on a combination of continuing decent economic growth into next year and beyond.

A handful of commentators are showing awareness, at least, of the possibility of a sharp downturn next year particularly if sterling remains relatively strong. But the markets have not priced much of such potential bad news into their expectations. Are there any road maps?

Well, there is one. This is the performance of the US economy. Not only is it in a more advanced position in the cycle – its recovery started about a year earlier – but the strength of the currency has been sustained for longer and unemployment has fallen further. Looking at the US is by no means a perfect proxy for the UK, for a number of unconnected reasons. Nevertheless it can give some pointers.

Perhaps the most useful one is unemployment. The lower that can be driven without wage inflation the longer the boom can continue, and in the UK more than the US (because of our more substantial welfare payments) the quicker public finances can come back to balance.

In the US, unemployment has been below 6 per cent for three years. This year it has fallen from 5.4 per cent in January to 5.0 per cent now. It may – and this is the really interesting bit – drop to 4 per cent in the next year, raising the possibility that the new “trading range” for unemployment in the US will be 4.6 per cent through the economic cycle, levels in effect back to those of the 1950s and 1960s.

Why so low? Some work by the economics team at HSBC focuses on the relationship between the unemployment

count and participation rates. As you can see from the graph, participation rates rose pretty steadily right through the economic cycles of the last 12 years, pausing in the early 1990s when unemployment rose, but resuming its rise once unemployment began to fall again.

However this overall rise has entirely been the result of more women in the workforce. The participation rate for women in the early 1980s was around 52 per cent; now it is 60 per cent. Meanwhile the rate for men has fallen from 78 to 75 per cent. The labour force has been expanding – but mainly because strong demand for labour has pulled many more women into work.

This rise has been particularly noticeable in the past year. HSBC points out that female participation rates remained at the level of June 1996, unemployment would already be down to 4 per cent, and presumably the economy would be under more strain.

This raises the obvious question: how high can female participation rates rise before they hit a natural ceiling?

Anyone who has been to the US in recent months (or is ziplocking over for a holiday now) will be aware of how hard Americans are working.

A lot of the people in the ser-



Hamish McRae

There could be a sharp downturn next year, particularly with a strong pound. But markets have not priced much potential bad news into expectations

vices industries – behind counters on airline desks, on check-outs at supermarkets – seem to be past normal retirement age. Demand for labour has pulled many retirees back into work, perhaps part-time.

For a start, despite recent growth in the workforce, the number of people in jobs now is roughly a million lower than it was at the height of the 1980s

boom. True, that was unsustainable. Nevertheless continued economic growth ought to be able to suck more people back into jobs. Remember that our participation rates are lower than theirs.

But there must be some limit to the rise in female participation. The question then is whether there is an impact on male participation, reversing the trend of the last 15 years. There ought to be, but it has not shown in the figures. If there is not, then at some point soon the US hits the level at which employers bid up the price to get people, interest rates go up, and the cycle is reversed. The danger here would be that once wage rates do start to move up, they could move up sharply: the rise in wage rates would be the precursor to a recession too.

That is all in the future. What are the lessons for the UK? We have the advantage of the US that we can learn from their experience.

Intuitively I would expect there to be just as much potential here for a rise in participation rates as in the US, indeed perhaps more so, for a number of reasons.

For a start, despite recent growth in the workforce, the number of people in jobs now is roughly a million lower than it was at the height of the 1980s

A 'quite remarkable' chance for City punters

PEOPLE & BUSINESS



Kevin Keegan: Joining the ranks of charity fundraisers

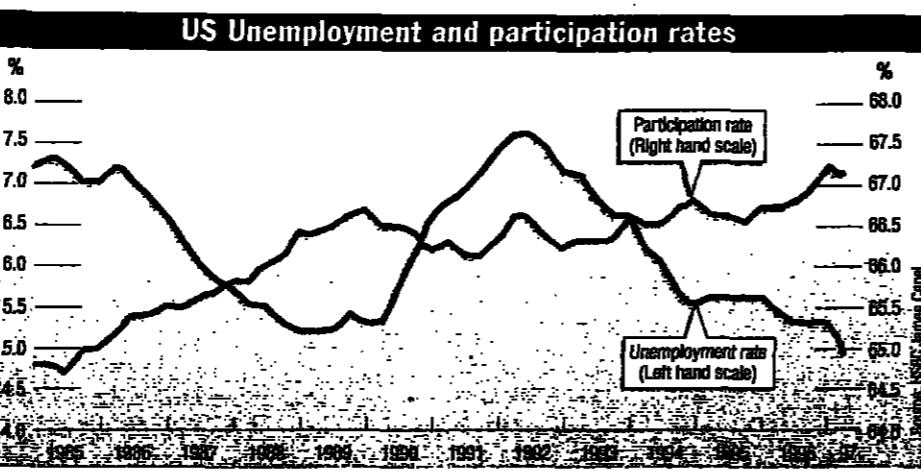
diplomatic skills to swing into action and effect a reconciliation? Or a settlement at least.

I hear that Bruce Gyngell, joint managing director of Yorkshire-lyne Tees (YTT), is plotting his exit from the company following its takeover by Granada. This of course brings up the vexed question of a pay-off, and I understand that Mr Gyngell is currently negotiating a package which will include his existing £870,000 worth of stock options in YTT plus one year's salary, or around £320,000. Nice one, Bruce. He doesn't appear to have any new jobs in sight yet, and is just enjoying the summer in his cottage in Dorset.

Salomon Brothers have just faxed me 141 blank sheets of paper. What's behind this attempt to wipe out the remaining rainforests? “We've had a problem,” says a Solomon spokesperson with admirable understatement. The computer which automatically sends out research circulars and the like went a bit mad. It was meant to send out just one page, a critique of Crédit Suisse's results by Salomon banking analyst John D. Leonard. Ah, the joys of new technology.

I hear that Janet Dyson is not leaving the European drugs research team at Merrill Lynch, contrary to what we said last week. It must be the heat. I'm on firmer ground I think when I say that Richard Sharp, 32, has returned to NatWest Markets as global head of Pan European Sales Trading from Merrill Lynch. He joined Merrill from what was then County NatWest in 1992, so he already knows the firm well.

John Willcock



Foreign Exchange Rates

Country	Sterling			Dollar			D-Mark		
	Spot	1 month	3 months	Spot	1 month	3 months	Spot	1 month	3 months
US	1.5784	20.18	50.56	1000	—	—	0.5396	—	—
Canada	2.1950	20.65	20.20	1.3873	32.31	59.88	0.7606	0.7606	0.7606
Germany	2.2349	97.00	268.78	1.8531	32.38	117.76	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
France	2.8522	100.00	262.00	0.8249	19.13	52.00	0.7370	0.7370	0.7370
Italy	2.5221	12.14	16.07	0.7223	17.00	45.60	0.5932	0.5932	0.5932
Japan	1.8251	102.100	307.300	1.5288	52.51	152.51	0.52381	0.52381	0.52381
ECU	1.4874	35.51	106.101	1.0610	14.15	46.47	0.5068	0.5068	0.5068
Belgium	1.6024	21.50	32.00	1.3074	22.15	32.00	0.5396	0.5396	0.5396
Denmark	1.6343	32.00	100.00	1.2073	22.15	32.00	0.5396	0.5396	0.5396
Netherlands	2.3252	106.98	318.304	2.0281	43.42	125.127	1.2626	1.2626	1.2626
Ireland	1.0951	6.26	8.26	1.1438	8.7	10.56	0.5396	0.5396	0.5396
Norway	1.0984	80.80	759.00	1.1472	22.16	23.40	0.5396	0.5396	0.5396
Spain	1.2452	37.26	53.36	1.2039	5.4	22.00	0.5396	0.5396	0.5396
Sweden	1.2527	110.20	320.00	1.7933	28.88	28.79	0.5396	0.5396	0.5396
Switzerland	2.3841	114.10	342.28	1.5079	54.53	151.59	0.5396	0.5396	0.5396
Australia	2.5355	39.34	125.75	1.5875	7.5	25.49	0.5396	0.5396	0.5396
New Zealand	2.4554	34.51	102.43	1.2960	40.50	125.45	0.5396	0.5396	0.5396
Mexico	4.2554	57.33	157.02	1.3705	6.8	31.33	0.5396	0.5396	0.5396
Saudi Arabia	5.9567	57.33	197.00	1.5288	5.19	15.19	0.5396	0.5396	0.5396
Singapore	2.3376	49.44	151.41	1.4810	19.15	53.53	0.5396	0.5396	0.5396

Money Market Rates

Country	Money Market Rates					
	1 Day	7 Day	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year
Intertel CDs	6.7%	7.7%	8.7%	9.7%	10.7%	11.7%
Local Authority Deposits	6.8%	7.8%	8.8%	9.8%	10.8%	11.8%
Treasury Bills (Buy)	6.8%	7.8%	8.8%	9.8%	10.8%	11.8%
ECU United Dep	5.42	6.42	5.55	5.65	5.70	5.75

Yields calculated on local basis

from benchmark

Interest Rates

Country	Interest Rates					
	5yr	yield %	10yr	yield %	30yr	yield %
UK	7.00%	7.00%	7.00%	7.00%	114.08	114.08
France	3.95%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	102.15	102.15
Intervention	3.0%	4.50%	4.75%	4.75%	120.65	120.65
Canada	6.25%	6.25%	6.25%	6.25%	120.57	120.57
Denmark	3.00%	3.25%	3.25%	3.25%	120.57	120.57
Sweden	3.00%	3.25%	3.25%	3.25%	120.57	120.57
ECU	3.00%	3.25%	3.25%	3.25%	120.57	120.57

HSBC Market Research

Yields calculated on local basis

from benchmark

Life Financial Futures

Contract	Settlement price	High/Low for day		Last traded	Open Interest
		Set	Close		
Long Gil	Sept 97	114.08</td			

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FORMATION D. 3-5-2
3 Defenders, 5 Midfielders, 2 Strikers

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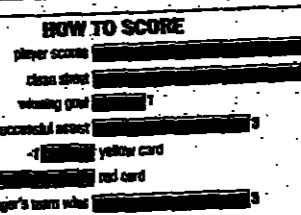
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GOALKEEPERS															
300	Seaman	Ars	4.0	455	Cox	Bol	2.5	560	Lundekvam	Sou	1.2	679	Sharpe	Lee	3.5
303	Lukic	Ars	1.0	456	Elliot	Bol	3.0	563	Scales	Tot	3.4	680	Ribeiro	Lee	1.5
304	Manninger	Ars	3.0	458	Taggart	Bol	2.5	564	Campbell	Tot	4.0	683	Haaland	Lee	2.5
305	Bosnich	AV	4.0	460	Bergsson	Bol	1.5	565	Calderwood	Tot	2.9	684	Parker	Lei	2.5
306	Oakes	AV	1.5	463	Duberry	Che	3.0	567	Edinburgh	Tot	1.6	686	Izzett	Lei	1.6
307	Watson	Bar	1.0	464	Lambourde	Che	3.0	568	Carr	Tot	1.2	687	Lennon	Lei	3.2
308	Lesse	Bar	1.0	465	Leboeuf	Che	5.0	569	Mabbutt	Tot	1.5	688	Guppy	Lei	1.7
309	Flowers	Bla	5.2	466	Sinclair	Che	2.5	570	Dicks	WH	3.5	689	Barnes	Liv	3.0
310	Filan	Bla	1.5	467	Dalish	Cov	2.7	573	Rieper	WH	2.7	690	Redknapp	Liv	5.2
311	Branganan	Bol	1.2	468	Shaw	Cov	2.2	574	Hall	WH	3.0	693	McNamee	Liv	5.9
312	De Goey	Che	1.0	469	Burrows	Cov	2.2	575	Potts	WH	1.5	694	Thomas	Liv	3.0
313	Grodas	Che	1.0	470	Haworth	Cov	1.5	576	Ferdinand	WH	2.5	695	Leonhardsen	Liv	4.0
314	Ogrizovic	Cov	2.2	473	Edworthy	CP	1.5	577	Impey	WH	2.2	696	Giggs	Man	7.4
315	Hedman	Cov	1.0	474	Gordon	CP	2.0	578	Turner	WH	2.0	697	Beckham	Man	7.0
316	Nash	CP	1.0	475	Muscat	CP	1.0	579	Perry	Wim	4.0	698	Keane	Man	7.0
317	Day	CP	1.0	476	Tuttle	CP	2.0	580	Cunningham	Wim	1.5	699	Butt	Man	7.0
318	Poole	Der	1.2	477	Linighan	CP	2.0	581	Thatcher	Wim	2.0	700	Poborski	Man	3.5
319	Houli	Der	1.6	478	Roberts	CP	3.0	582	McAllister	Wim	1.5	703	Lee	New	3.6
320	Southall	Eve	3.0	479	Hreidresson	CP	1.0	583	Kimble	Wim	1.5	704	Batty	New	3.8
321	Gerrard	Eve	1.5	480	Stimac	Der	3.3	584	Kimbble	AV	3.2	705	Gillespie	New	2.5
322	Martyn	Lee	3.3	481	Stimac	Der	1.8	585	Townsend	AV	3.2	706	Beardsley	New	2.0
323	Beeney	Lee	1.2	482	Laursen	Der	1.5	586	Platt	Avs	2.5	707	Ketsbare	New	2.0
324	Keller	Lei	2.5	483	Eranio	Der	2.5	587	Parlour	Avs	2.4	708	Blinker	SW	2.5
325	Poole	Lei	1.5	484	Phelan	Eve	1.9	588	Vieira	Avs	4.5	709	Hyde	SW	1.8
326	James	Liv	3.5	485	Short	Eve	3.0	589	Overmars	Avs	6.0	710	Whittingham	SW	1.7
327	Warner	Liv	1.0	486	Watson	Eve	2.7	590	M Rodriguez	Avs	2.0	711	Carbone	SW	3.0
328	Schmeichel	Man	5.5	487	Unsworth	Eve	3.0	591	Taylor	AV	1.9	712	Magilton	Sou	2.4
329	Van Der Gouw	Man	1.2	488	Hinchcliffe	Eve	3.5	592	Slater	Avs	1.5	713	Oakley	Sou	1.2
330	Given	New	2.5	489	Bilic	Eve	4.0	593	Draper	AV	4.1	714	Anderton	Tot	6.0
331	Histlop	New	2.5	490	Kelly	Lee	3.6	594	Marcelle	Bar	2.0	715	Fox	Tot	3.5
332	Pressman	SW	3.0	491	Wetherall	Lee	2.5	595	Bullock	Bar	1.2	716	Howells	Tot	3.2
333	Taylor	Sou	1.8	492	Molenaar	Lee	2.5	596	Redfearn	Bar	1.5	717	Ginola	Tot	3.5
334	Beasant	Sou	1.0	493	Dorigo	Lee	1.2	597	Eaden	Bar	1.2	718	Sinton	Tot	3.0
335	Walker	Tot	3.4	494	Robertson	Lee	2.5	598	Tinkler	Bar	1.0	719	Nielsen	Tot	2.5
336	Bardsen	Tot	1.0	495	Walsh	Lei	2.2	599	Donis	Bla	3.0	720	Williamson	Wim	2.0
337	Miklosko	WH	1.5	500	Whitlow	Lei	1.2	600	Wilcox	Bla	3.0	721	Beardsley	Wim	2.0
338	Sullivan	Wim	2.7	501	Elliot	Lei	1.2	601	McKinlay	Bla	2.2	722	Ketsbare	Wim	2.0
339	Watts	Lei	1.6	502	Wright	Liv	3.0	602	Sherwood	Bla	3.4	723	Moncur	WH	2.5
340	Ruddock	Liv	3.0	503	Ruddock	Liv	3.0	603	Filtcock	Bla	3.0	724	Bishop	WH	2.5
341	Hinchess	Liv	1.2	504	Watts	Lei	1.6	604	Frandsen	Bol	1.5	725	Berkovic	WH	2.5
342	McNamee	Liv	3.0	505	Wright	Liv	3.0	605	Gullit	Bol	1.5	726	Hughes	Wim	2.0
343	Grimandi	Ars	2.7	506	Ruddock	Liv	3.0	606	Thompson	Bol	2.8	727	Hughes	Wim	

Britain found wanting by parochial attitude

Andy Farrell believes that another defeat in golf's Walker Cup might be avoided by bringing Europe on board

At the opening ceremony of the 36th Walker Cup, the Union Flag got stuck at half-mast and that is where it should have stayed for the weekend. The history of the event is for those on the eastern side of the Atlantic to indulge in the very occasional almighty celebration party, or quietly forget all about it. Last weekend's match followed the general trend.

Two wonderful highs of victory, at Peacock in 1989, for the only time on American soil, and at Royal Portrush two years ago, almost shed the match of its undesired sobriquet of the Walkover Cup. But the last two visits by Great Britain and Ireland to the United States have produced the two biggest thrashings in a long list of one-sided affairs. At Interlachen in 1993, the US won 19-5 and at Quaker Ridge this time it was 18-6.

As well as the Americans played, they were not led by a major new talent as they have been in the last three matches: Phil Mickelson in 1991, Justin Leonard in 1993 and Tiger Woods, albeit in a losing effort, in 1995. In a search for a star,

you have to look to John Harris, who won all four of his matches and, as at Interlachen, secured the winning point.

In three Walker Cups, Harris now has the superb record of 10 wins and one loss, while he is unbeaten in six singles matches, the best record in the competition's history.

The visitors never recovered from losing the first morning foursomes 4-0, and they won only one foursome on Sunday morning – which at least kept the match alive going into the final session. However, it was over as a contest before 20 minutes into NBC's coverage of the final afternoon. If the network executives were less than impressed, so were the citizens of Westchester County and New York City.

Limited galleries of maybe 3,000 people each day watched the event, while others were put off by the high ticket prices. At \$55 (£35) a day, they did not compare favourably with a season ticket of \$225 for seven days at this week's USPCA Championship at nearby Winged Foot watching Woods, Leonard, Ernie Els et al.

When a media official of the United States Golf Association tumbles to the anachronism of trying to run a major international event as a garden party, you know sense can penetrate the deepest reaches. But the match will continue in accordance with the traditions of 75 years of history.

The USGA have profits that they do not know what to do with from their contract with NBC for the US Open, a deal which also requires the network to cover its amateur events.

The Royal and Ancient of St Andrews do their duty to the world by running the Open superbly, but they have never acknowledged pest calls for Europe to be brought into the match. It took Jack Nicklaus to revive the Ryder Cup, but difficulties of selection have always been stated as a reason not to bring in the best Continental amateurs.

Jose-Maria Olazabal and Per-Ulrik Johansson are just two who could have graced past matches, while Spain are the current European amateur team champions. The R&A are the governing body for every country in the world bar northern America, so why stop at the boundaries of Great Britain and Ireland?

"I'm a traditionalist and I don't want to think about that," the Britain and Ireland captain, Clive Brown, said. "This is more than just a golf match. It's a celebration of the relationship between the USGA and the R&A, who between them govern world golf."

There was at least hope for the future in the form of Justin Rose, who a week after his 17th birthday came out of the match with two points. Only Steven Young could match him, while the amateur champion, Craig Watson, claimed one and a half points. "Justin has done himself a great deal of credit," Brown said. "He will be a star to watch in the future."

Freer-for-all over Dettori

Richard Edmondson reports on a trainer's determination to get the best out of Shantou

Frankie Dettori has taken the role, once again, of a Christmas cracker and it appears that John Gosden has pulled his way to the trinket of the jockey's booking. The Italian's services were required by both the Newmarket trainer and Godolphin for Saturday's Geoffrey Freer Stakes at Newbury, but the special need of the former has swung the argument.

Gosden saddles Shantou, who runs like the wind for Dettori and runs like he's got wind for anyone else. In these circumstances, Godolphin are happy to let their shared contract run full the other half of his obligation with Gosden and his St Leger winner of last year.

Godolphin's runner is likely to be Predappio, who has an alternative engagement in Germany on Sunday. Their other entry, Classic Cliche, is destined for the Prix Kergorlay at Deauville, where he is likely to meet another of Saturday's defectors, Persian Punch. Others who have not cried off from Newbury yet number among them the Peter Chapple-Hyam pairing of Royal Court and Panama City. The 11 acceptors also include Strategic Choice (Paul Cole), Dushyant (Henry Cecil), Further Flight (Barry Hills), Kutta (Robert Armstrong) and King Sound (Gosden).

Richard Edmondson

Classic Cliche's next performance will determine whether he continues on his path to the Melbourne Cup, where he would be the first horse to transport the Godolphin Royal blue liver to Australia. The five-year-old played possum before finishing well into second behind Double Trigger in the Goodwood Cup last time, an effort that originally sickened connections. They feel better now.

"He's the ideal horse for the Melbourne job because he's shown he's got the speed for a mile and a half from his runs in King Georges, Sam Crisp, Godolphin's racing manager, said yesterday. "You need that over two miles in Aus-

tralia, because the out-and-out stayers that go there are too slow."

"The horse's whole year has been campaigned towards that race and nothing has changed just because he was beaten at Goodwood. In fact, that wasn't such a bad run when you sit back and look at it. We fancied him very strongly going into the race because he had done so well since Royal Ascot. When you expect something to win like that and they get turned over, maybe you should sit back for a couple of hours and think about it. We need to see how he runs this time."

There is confidence, too, behind Persian Punch for the Prix Kergorlay. Earlier this

season the gelding had the sort of dreadful experience in the stalls that viewers of Bean, the Ultimate Disaster Movie are about to encounter. Now he also feels better. "At Ascot he had a hell of a problem in the stalls where he was very badly bashed so he was then short of work for Goodwood," Jeff Smith, Persian Punch's owner, said yesterday. "But David [Elsworth, the trainer] is pretty certain he's back, he's in good form and he will run well when he goes."

There are positive messages also emerging from the Godolphin repair shop about Swain, who captured a King George VI & Queen Elizabeth Stakes which threatened to remove the fighting spirit of many of those who dragged themselves through the Ascot sludge. The signs are that he will be a formidable foe in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe in early October.

"Amazingly the horse seemed to take the race very well," Cressford reported. "Sure it was a very hard race, but it was only his second outing of the season. He's not had an aggressive campaign and, in terms of condition, we couldn't be more pleased with him."

"He's been very lightly campaigned and the Arc will be only his fourth run of the year."

Ryan Kyan, who rode the colt at Epsom and when second in the Eclipse, Olivier Peslier,

who landed the Dante on Ben-ny The Dip, and Frankie Dettori, subject to Sheikh Mohammed's requirements, are being considered.

Gosden said he will be discussing the situation with Ben-ny The Dip's American-based owner, Landon Knight. He added that a decision would be taken at the weekend.

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sport

WORLD ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS: British competitors once again performed creditably at the highest level but they still failed to bring home the top prizes. As **Mike Rowbottom** reports from Athens, a continuing lack of investment remains the underlying problem

Better funding can turn silver into gold

For Britain, at the sixth World Championships which ended here on Sunday, golden expectations became silver consolations.

If winning is a habit, then so, evidently, is finishing second. Since Jonathan Edwards won the world triple jump title in 1993, Britain has claimed 20 silver medals in global championships and no gold.

The medals table – which recognises first place as the deciding criterion – tells its own story. Britain finished 26th, below Sweden, Mexico and New Zealand.

These were the first World Championships not to produce a world record – despite the fact that, for the first time, there was a bonus on offer of \$100,000 (£63,000). Even the man most expected to raise the standard in his event, Wilson Kipketer, failed to pocket any extra cash in winning the 800 metres.

Neither Kipketer nor any of the middle-distance runners were helped by a hard Mondo track which favoured the sprinters. After the bold, or rather, Boldon claims made beforehand about the inevitability of there being a new 100 metres record, Maurice Greene's victory in 9.86 sec, 0.02 sec outside the existing record, was faintly anticlimactic.

Boldon's winning time in the 200m – 20.04 sec – was the slowest at these championships since 1987. It was a statistic which this assiduous student of his event, the self-styled "Nerd of the Sprints", was the first to point out.

There was more disappointment in the sprint relay – but it was confined to the United States team, whose brash ambitions were reduced to nothing as they failed to convey the baton through one exchange of their first round.

Hours earlier, Greene had forecast that the Americans would "whup the Canadians' asses" in the final, and take the world record of 37.40 down to 36sec.

The Greeks have a word for it: hubris.

Waiting to run the last leg, the individual gold medallist became a bemused bystander as a mistake by Tim Montgomery halted the US progress in its tracks.

The US dismay was in complete contrast to the joy exhibited by Britain's sprint relay quartet, who ultimately profited from the favourites' early exit by taking the bronze.

It was, in one sense, Britain's highest point of the championships – a moment when things went unexpectedly well for them rather than unexpectedly badly.

Their five silver medal performances involved varying degrees of hope and expectation.

Denise Lewis's ability to combine commitment and vivacity in the heptathlon did much to change the tone of the British involvement here following the traumatic early departure of the injured Kelly Holmes.

Lewis had beaten her main rival, Sabine Brauna, at the previous summer's Olympics but this year the German led the world standings, and she simply performed to the top of her ability.

Lewis faltered on the opening events of each day, which may not have been coincidence. She was one of many athletes who complained of the early



Sweden, with a single medal, ended above Britain in the final table because Ludmila Engquist's gold in the 100m hurdles is worth more than any number of silvers or bronzes

Photograph: AP

morning starts here, which sometimes necessitated competitors getting up at four in the morning.

In fairness to the organisers of what was a well-run event, something which will do no harm when the Athens campaign for the 2004 Olympics comes to a head next month, they had little option but to straddle each day's programme over the blindingly hot noon period.

Steve Backley, desperate to secure his first global title in the javelin, was desperately unfortunate to encounter a

relatively unknown South African, Marius Corbett, who secured the gold when he improved his personal best by five metres – an extraordinary performance.

Colin Jackson, who had not won a major 110m hurdles race all season, gained a medal no one had expected of him before the championships began, although there was no arguing with the fact that Allen Johnson, whose winning time was just 0.02 sec outside Jackson's world record, remains the leader in the event.

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Britain's 400m relay runners also had to give best to a US team which had enough strength in depth to retain its title despite missing the individual champion, Michael Johnson, and being unable to call upon the world record holder, Butch Reynolds, who was not fit.

Edwards, so sanguine about winning the silver medal at the Olympics, was close to tears after doing the same here. Despite having missed five weeks of training immediately before his competition because of a

heel injury, he was fiercely critical of his performance. "Real champions come through despite the odds, and I didn't," he said.

By that yardstick, Britain does not have any real champions. It does not even have many old champions – in the course of the week's activities, three Olympic gold medallists of recent times, Linford Christie, Sally Gunnell and Tessa Sanderson, announced their retirements within the space of three days.

Where are Britain's

champions of tomorrow, then? There was genuine hope for the future in the performances of, among others, Lewis, Alison Curbisley and the sprint relay team, which had a brief contribution from the world junior record holder, Dwain Chambers.

But if the potential evident here is to be fully realised, something important must be forthcoming: money.

Malcolm Arnold, Britain's chief coach, says he will consider resigning if the cash he has been promised through the National Lottery to set up a national

coaching and athletes' services scheme has not come through by 1 October.

Arnold bid for £4.3m plus money for athletes subsistence. He was offered £2.6m for the scheme, and has yet to receive any of it.

"The British athletics team has been underfunded for seven years," he said. "That is the reason my predecessor resigned, and the situation has not improved.

"The fault lies in bureaucratic process. For the 2000 Olympics we are already having to play

catch-up." He contrasted the annual budget available to athletes from other nations here – Germany has £4m purely for coaching, Spain £8m and Italy £10m.

"Britain gets a darn sight more than it deserves from its athletes," Arnold said. "It puts little in and gets a darn sight more out."

Malcolm Brown, Britain's team doctor, is seeking £500,000 to set up a screening and physiotherapy scheme which will help prevent the niggling strains and injuries which have undermined the team's challenge in Athens.

But he denied suggestions that the British team was unusually injury-prone. "We normally expect around 25 per cent of our athletes to experience some kind of problem at major championships," he said. "It's just that the majority have affected our high-profile athletes."

To some extent, the British failure to do better here came down to simple bad luck. Unfortunately, the National Lottery Fund does not provide resources in that area.

GREAT BRITAIN'S OLYMPIC AND WORLD ROLL OF HONOUR 1983-97

1983 World Championships (Helsinki)

Gold: (2) Steve Cram (1500m), Daley Thompson (decathlon).

Silver: (2) Fatima Whitbread (javelin), women's 4x100m relay.

Bronze: (3) Colin Reitz (3,000m steeplechase), Kathy Cook (200m), men's 4x100m relay.

1984 Olympic Games (Los Angeles)

Gold: (3) Sebastian Coe (1,500m), Thompson (decathlon), Tessa Sanderson (javelin).

Silver: (6) Colin Reitz (3,000m steeplechase),

Kathy Cook (200m), men's 4x100m relay.

Bronze: (3) Steve Cram (1500m), Daley Thompson (javelin), Wendy Sly (3,000m), Shirley Strong (100m hurdles).

Bronze: (6) Charlie Spedding (marathon),

1987 World Championships (Rome)

Gold: (1) Whitbread (javelin).

Silver: (3) Peter Elliott (800m), Jon Ridgeon (110m hurdles), men's 4x100m relay.

Bronze: (4) Jack Buckner (5,000m), Linford Christie (100m), Colin Jackson (110m hurdles), John Regis (200m).

1988 Olympics (Seoul)

Gold: none.

Silver: (5) Christie (100m), Elliott (1500m), Jackson (110m hurdles), men's 4x100m relay, Liz McColgan (10,000m), Whitbread (javelin).

1991 Olympics (Barcelona)

Gold: (2) Christie (100m), Gunnell (400m hurdles).

Silver: none.

Bronze: (3) Akabusi (400m hurdles), Steve Backley (javelin), women's 4x400m.

1993 World Championships (Stuttgart)

Gold: (3) Christie (100m), Jackson (110m hurdles), Gunnell (400m hurdles).

Silver: (3) Tony Jarrett (110m hurdles), Regis (200m), men's 4x100m relay.

Bronze: (4) Jonathan Edwards (triple jump), Steve Smith (high jump), Mick Hill (javelin), women's 4x400m relay.

1995 World Championships (Goteborg)

Gold: (2) Christie (100m), Gunnell (400m hurdles).

Silver: (3) Bailey (javelin), Jarrett (110m hurdles), men's 4x400m relay.

Bronze: (3) Akabusi (400m hurdles), Steve Backley (javelin), women's 4x400m.

1996 Olympics (Atlanta)

Gold: none.

Silver: (4) Roger Black (400m), men's 4x400m relay, Jonathan Edwards (triple jump), Backley (javelin).

Bronze: (2) Steve Smith (high jump), Denise Lewis (heptathlon).

1997 World Championships (Athens)

Gold: none.

Silver: (5) Denise Lewis (heptathlon), Jackson (100m hurdles), Backley (javelin), Edwards (triple jump), men's 4x400m relay.

Bronze: (1) Holmes (800m).

Italians turn to attack

Sailing

STUART ALEXANDER

The pace quickened in the Fastnet Race yesterday. The big trimarans, competing for the first time, making the finish in Plymouth, the Whitbread 60s and maxis due in for breakfast today, while the Admiral's Cup fleet rounded the lighthouse rock of south-west Ireland and are set for a good run home.

With the second-placed New Zealand team's tactic of heading offshore and south to find better wind having failed to

bring the advantage they hoped, the window has been further opened for the Italian trio to attack the United States, the overall leaders going into the 610-mile finale for the Cup.

Graham Walker's 45-ft Corum Indulgence, with Chris Law, Jeremy Robinson, Stuart Childerley and Graham Bailey sharing the helming, was lying third on handicap, just five seconds behind the first cupper round the rock at 16.55.

America's Flash Gordon, and their Mum 36, Breeze, was third, compared with a

They were also heading for a top-scoring 36 in the whole series and one of the top three overall.

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Tennis

Tim Henman, following two successive first-round defeats, has dropped from 18 to 21 in the latest world rankings issued yesterday and Greg Rusedski has gone down one place from 24 to 23.

Henman's fall could seriously affect his chances of getting a seeded position at the US Open, which begins later this month, for most of the world's leading players are expected to compete at Flushing Meadow.

Last year Henman reached the last 16 at the US Open before losing to Stefan Edberg and, if he fails to get that far again, could drop even further down the rankings.

Pete Sampras defeated Australian Thomas Muster 6-3, 6-4 to capture the ATP Championship in Mason, Ohio, on Sunday. It was the 49th career title for the American, tying him with Boris Becker for the most tournament victories among active players on the ATP Tour.

Monica Seles survived a match point to win her 39th career title by beating Lindsay Davenport 5-7, 7-5, 6-4 at the Acura Classic event on Sunday in Manhattan Beach, California.

ATP rankings, page 25

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Hockey

BILL COWILL

reports from Harare

New Zealand and South Africa will meet in today's final of the women's World Cup qualifying tournament here following yesterday's semi-finals in which the Kiwis beat India with an 11-0 win after 11 minutes of extra-time, and Scotland went down to the Springboks.

The game after the interval with the captain, Pauline Robertson, driving forward to win a series of penalty corners. But it was not until two minutes before the end that Sue Fraser eventually pierced the Springbok defence.

In between, the South Africans had extended their lead in the 48th minute with an unstoppable penalty stroke after Alison Darcie's shot had been illegally stopped by Alison Grant on its route to goal.

The game ended with the South Africans frantically scrapping the ball away from Robertson's last desperate effort.

Scotland play India for the bronze medal today while England and China contest the fifth and sixth place.

The South Africa coach, Boudewijn Castellijn, said: "To reach our first major tournament final is a great achievement, though we could not have done it a month ago."

The Scotland coach, Mike Gilbert, praised their fightback. "We are learning the hard way," he said.

Scotland bounced back into

Scotland usurped by Springboks

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Football

7.30 unless stated

UEFA CUP PRELIMINARY ROUND FIRST LEG

Hill now bargaining from a position of strength

Motor racing

DERICK ALLSOP

Point made, now back to the negotiating table. Damon Hill and his aides are likely to be busy trying to conclude the business of booking him his next car before they head for the Belgian Grand Prix on Sunday week.

Hill's late misfortune in Sunday's race in Budapest, relegating him to the silver medal position that appears to have become the British preserve, will not have weakened his bargaining position as he endeavours to secure a place in next season's championship contest.

He has had talks with McLaren-Mercedes and Ron Dennis' team must be even more interested in his services. Now, however, they are likely to be pressed for a decision they intended to put off until later in the season.

Hill gave produced a champion's performance here and will sense the opportunity to strike a deal. One of his advisors said: "We hope to have things sorted out in two to four weeks."

McLaren and Mercedes have stated they wish to give David Coulthard and Mika Hakkinen time to stake their claims for new contracts, but the in-

cumbents will be conscious of the pressure being exerted by Hill. Both drivers were let down by their equipment on Sunday, when good results would have provided timely comfort.

Prost remains an option for Hill and they may be more willing to pay the \$10m (£6m) the Englishman is said to be seeking. Whether the team fit the criteria of potential title winners is another matter.

Jordan have suggested they might be ready to graduate to the front line and although Hill rejected them at the end of last year, the association could be revived. If Hill is hired by McLaren at Coulthard's ex-

pense, the Scot could find employment at Jordan.

Hill received words of encouragement from the head of Formula One, Bernie Ecclestone, who said: "I regard Damon as one of the leading three drivers in the world and I'm sure he'll get a top drive next season."

Ironically, Jordan-Peugeot were off the pace here, while Arrows-Yamaha were flying. However, Hill suspects this was his best chance of the year and is unlikely to regard them as genuine championship challengers for 1998.

Tom Walkinshaw, the Arrows team manager, does not ar-

gue with Hill's judgement. "I wouldn't cross him off my Christmas card list if he went to one of the super-teams," Walkinshaw said. "But Damon and I have a very adult relationship, which is not that usual in Formula One. We both

see how things develop."

"I would expect us to be at the top end of the next group after the super-teams next year. We have made steady progress over the last few races and hope to continue in that vein. I believe we can be competing for the championship in three years."

We have had to address a lot of matters this year and there

will be more changes before next season. Hard decisions have to be made in this business."

John Barnard, Arrows' new technical director, has won the admiration of the team with his "eye for detail". He has split his staff into two divisions, one to work on this year's car, another to work on next year's.

Walkinshaw says he is "comfortable" with his engine plans, which are due to be revealed next month.

Walkinshaw's involvement in other racing and business ventures has been cited as a weakness of his organisation, but he dismisses the criticism.

"I see myself as the admiral of the fleet rather than the captain of any one ship," he said. "I should have in place captains capable of commanding their ships and it's my job to ensure that happens."

Jordan were not the only steady ship on Sunday. Ferrari, who had hoped to put clean water between themselves and Williams-Renault, were listing in high seas.

Michael Schumacher damaged his new chassis in the warm-up session and, using the spare, was unable to capitalise on his pole position. Rapidly blistering tyres compounded his problems.

Jacques Villeneuve's victory and Schumacher's fourth place closed the gap between them to a mere three points. Although Heinz-Harald Frentzen had to retire after losing the filler cap of his Williams, he will have been hugely relieved by the conviction of his drive. He was the fastest man on the circuit and would probably have established a considerable advantage long before Hill's fatal throttle and gearbox troubles.

Schumacher will be eager to regenerate his momentum at Spa, a circuit that has had as defining an influence on his career as the Hungaroring has had on Hill's.

Hussain steps in to lead Essex

Cricket

Nasser Hussain's captaincy credentials will be put under the spotlight in today's NatWest Trophy semi-final between Essex and Glamorgan at Chelmsford.

Hussain, a candidate for Mike Atherton's England job, will take over the Essex reins in the absence of the injured Paul Prichard, who tore a hamstring during his double century in the last Championship match against Kent and could be out for a fortnight.

Hussain was Atherton's deputy on the winter tours to Zimbabwe and New Zealand and has established himself in England's top order.

Prichard's absence leaves Hussain with an opening problem, but Graham Gooch will not be tempted to make a romantic return as Essex bid to reach Lord's on 6 September and erase the memory of last year's final when Lancashire dismissed them for 57.

Darren Robinson will probably open the innings with the Tim Hodgson slotting in lower down in the order.

Glamorgan's only 60-over final appearance was in 1977, but their hopes of a one-day title was spoilt by a five-wicket Middlesex victory.

This time, they have a potential match-winner in Waqar Younis, who said: "Essex are not an easy team to play against. They have a good bowling attack, and some excellent batsmen but if we play to our full potential we are a match for anyone."

"It all comes down to what happens on the day, of course. If we play well I don't think there is anything they can do to stop us going to Lord's."

Matthew Maynard, the Glamorgan captain, added: "Essex will favour their batting, they will look to bat us out of the game if they get in first but if we show the character we showed against Hampshire and Yorkshire, we will be all right."

Maynard made 78 and England's Robert Croft 50 when Glamorgan beat Essex in their last NatWest meeting in Cardiff in 1994. The Welsh county will be more than happy to settle for something similar, but Essex may be able to produce something special.

Third day: India won 2000

SRI LANKA - First Innings: 332 (P A de Silva 148; D M McIntyre 4-78).

INDIA - First Innings: 128 (Overton 226 for 4).

SRI LANKA - Second Innings: 138 (Ranganath 136; K S de Silva 147; S R de Vries 130; M Muralitharan 15; A R Karunaratne 14; S R de Silva 13).

INDIA - Second Innings: 139 (Pushpakumara 136; S C Ganguly 96; Virender Sehwag 95; K S de Silva 147; S R de Vries 130; M Muralitharan 15; A R Karunaratne 14; S R de Silva 13).

SRI LANKA - Total (2nd Innings): 138 (D M McIntyre not out; P A de Silva 126; D M McIntyre 4-78).

INDIA - Total (2nd Innings): 138 (S R de Vries 130; M Muralitharan 15; A R Karunaratne 14; S R de Silva 13).

INDIA - Total (3rd Innings): 376 (Overton 226 for 4).

SRI LANKA - Total (3rd Innings): 376 (P A de Silva, Ranganath, K S de Silva, S R de Vries, M Muralitharan, A R Karunaratne, S R de Silva, D M McIntyre not out; P A de Silva 126; D M McIntyre 4-78).

INDIA - Total (4th Innings): 376 (Overton 226 for 4).

SRI LANKA - Total (4th Innings): 376 (P A de Silva, Ranganath, K S de Silva, S R de Vries, M Muralitharan, A R Karunaratne, S R de Silva, D M McIntyre not out; P A de Silva 126; D M McIntyre 4-78).

INDIA - Total (5th Innings): 376 (Overton 226 for 4).

SRI LANKA - Total (5th Innings): 376 (P A de Silva, Ranganath, K S de Silva, S R de Vries, M Muralitharan, A R Karunaratne, S R de Silva, D M McIntyre not out; P A de Silva 126; D M McIntyre 4-78).

INDIA - Total (6th Innings): 376 (Overton 226 for 4).

SRI LANKA - Total (6th Innings): 376 (P A de Silva, Ranganath, K S de Silva, S R de Vries, M Muralitharan, A R Karunaratne, S R de Silva, D M McIntyre not out; P A de Silva 126; D M McIntyre 4-78).

INDIA - Total (7th Innings): 376 (Overton 226 for 4).

SRI LANKA - Total (7th Innings): 376 (P A de Silva, Ranganath, K S de Silva, S R de Vries, M Muralitharan, A R Karunaratne, S R de Silva, D M McIntyre not out; P A de Silva 126; D M McIntyre 4-78).

INDIA - Total (8th Innings): 376 (Overton 226 for 4).

SRI LANKA - Total (8th Innings): 376 (P A de Silva, Ranganath, K S de Silva, S R de Vries, M Muralitharan, A R Karunaratne, S R de Silva, D M McIntyre not out; P A de Silva 126; D M McIntyre 4-78).

INDIA - Total (9th Innings): 376 (Overton 226 for 4).

SRI LANKA - Total (9th Innings): 376 (P A de Silva, Ranganath, K S de Silva, S R de Vries, M Muralitharan, A R Karunaratne, S R de Silva, D M McIntyre not out; P A de Silva 126; D M McIntyre 4-78).

INDIA - Total (10th Innings): 376 (Overton 226 for 4).

SRI LANKA - Total (10th Innings): 376 (P A de Silva, Ranganath, K S de Silva, S R de Vries, M Muralitharan, A R Karunaratne, S R de Silva, D M McIntyre not out; P A de Silva 126; D M McIntyre 4-78).

INDIA - Total (11th Innings): 376 (Overton 226 for 4).

SRI LANKA - Total (11th Innings): 376 (P A de Silva, Ranganath, K S de Silva, S R de Vries, M Muralitharan, A R Karunaratne, S R de Silva, D M McIntyre not out; P A de Silva 126; D M McIntyre 4-78).

INDIA - Total (12th Innings): 376 (Overton 226 for 4).

SRI LANKA - Total (12th Innings): 376 (P A de Silva, Ranganath, K S de Silva, S R de Vries, M Muralitharan, A R Karunaratne, S R de Silva, D M McIntyre not out; P A de Silva 126; D M McIntyre 4-78).

INDIA - Total (13th Innings): 376 (Overton 226 for 4).

SRI LANKA - Total (13th Innings): 376 (P A de Silva, Ranganath, K S de Silva, S R de Vries, M Muralitharan, A R Karunaratne, S R de Silva, D M McIntyre not out; P A de Silva 126; D M McIntyre 4-78).

INDIA - Total (14th Innings): 376 (Overton 226 for 4).

SRI LANKA - Total (14th Innings): 376 (P A de Silva, Ranganath, K S de Silva, S R de Vries, M Muralitharan, A R Karunaratne, S R de Silva, D M McIntyre not out; P A de Silva 126; D M McIntyre 4-78).

INDIA - Total (15th Innings): 376 (Overton 226 for 4).

SRI LANKA - Total (15th Innings): 376 (P A de Silva, Ranganath, K S de Silva, S R de Vries, M Muralitharan, A R Karunaratne, S R de Silva, D M McIntyre not out; P A de Silva 126; D M McIntyre 4-78).

INDIA - Total (16th Innings): 376 (Overton 226 for 4).

SRI LANKA - Total (16th Innings): 376 (P A de Silva, Ranganath, K S de Silva, S R de Vries, M Muralitharan, A R Karunaratne, S R de Silva, D M McIntyre not out; P A de Silva 126; D M McIntyre 4-78).

INDIA - Total (17th Innings): 376 (Overton 226 for 4).

SRI LANKA - Total (17th Innings): 376 (P A de Silva, Ranganath, K S de Silva, S R de Vries, M Muralitharan, A R Karunaratne, S R de Silva, D M McIntyre not out; P A de Silva 126; D M McIntyre 4-78).

INDIA - Total (18th Innings): 376 (Overton 226 for 4).

SRI LANKA - Total (18th Innings): 376 (P A de Silva, Ranganath, K S de Silva, S R de Vries, M Muralitharan, A R Karunaratne, S R de Silva, D M McIntyre not out; P A de Silva 126; D M McIntyre 4-78).

INDIA - Total (19th Innings): 376 (Overton 226 for 4).

SRI LANKA - Total (19th Innings): 376 (P A de Silva, Ranganath, K S de Silva, S R de Vries, M Muralitharan, A R Karunaratne, S R de Silva, D M McIntyre not out; P A de Silva 126; D M McIntyre 4-78).

INDIA - Total (20th Innings): 376 (Overton 226 for 4).

SRI LANKA - Total (20th Innings): 376 (P A de Silva, Ranganath, K S de Silva, S R de Vries, M Muralitharan, A R Karunaratne, S R de Silva, D M McIntyre not out; P A de Silva 126; D M McIntyre 4-78).

INDIA - Total (21st Innings): 376 (Overton 226 for 4).

SRI LANKA - Total (21st Innings): 376 (P A de Silva, Ranganath, K S de Silva, S R de Vries, M Muralitharan, A R Karunaratne, S R de Silva, D M McIntyre not out; P A de Silva 126; D M McIntyre 4-78).

INDIA - Total (22nd Innings): 376 (Overton 226 for 4).

SRI LANKA - Total (22nd Innings): 376 (P A de Silva, Ranganath, K S de Silva, S R de Vries, M Muralitharan, A R Karunaratne, S R de Silva, D M McIntyre not out; P A de Silva 126; D M McIntyre 4-78).

INDIA - Total (23rd Innings): 376 (Overton 226 for 4).

SRI LANKA - Total (23rd Innings): 376 (P A de Silva, Ranganath, K S de Silva, S R de Vries, M Muralitharan, A R Karunaratne, S R de Silva, D M McIntyre not out; P A de Silva 126; D M McIntyre 4-78).

INDIA - Total (24th Innings): 376 (Overton 226 for 4).

SRI LANKA - Total (24th Innings): 376 (P A de Silva, Ranganath, K S de Silva, S R de Vries, M Muralitharan, A R Karunaratne, S R de Silva, D M McIntyre not out; P A de Silva 126; D M McIntyre 4-78).

INDIA - Total (25th Innings): 376 (Overton 226 for 4).

SRI LANKA - Total (25th Innings): 376 (P A de Silva, Ranganath, K S de Silva, S R de Vries, M Muralitharan, A R Karunaratne, S R de Silva, D M McIntyre not out; P A de Silva 126; D M McIntyre 4-78).

INDIA - Total (26th Innings): 376 (Overton 226 for 4).

SRI LANKA - Total (26th Innings): 376 (P A de Silva, Ranganath, K S de Silva, S R de Vries, M Muralitharan, A R Karunaratne, S R de Silva, D M McIntyre not out; P A de Silva 126; D M McIntyre 4-78).

INDIA - Total (27th Innings): 376 (Overton 226 for 4).

SRI LANKA - Total (27th Innings): 376 (P A de Silva, Ranganath, K S de Silva, S R de Vries, M Muralitharan, A R Karunaratne, S R de Silva, D M McIntyre not out; P A de Silva 126; D M McIntyre 4-78).

INDIA - Total (28th Innings): 376 (Overton 226 for 4).



Britain second best
Mike Rowbottom reviews the
World Championships, page 24

sport

Bubbling under
Damon Hill is ready for the
hard bargaining, page 25

Atherton's future is in his own hands

DEREK PRINGLE
Cricket Correspondent

It is that silly season again, when following another sporting defeat, the nation's favourite blood sport turns not from potting pheasants and flushing out foxes, but to rounding up scapegoats. Indeed, it appears so popular and necessary over the years that it is a wonder that Damien Hirst has not put them all in a tank of formaldehyde and called it "Victims of an over-expectant nation in the throes of mass self-delusion".

The title is probably a little too poignant for Damien, but then the only rule to remember about sacrificing scapegoats is that the more important the victim, the

greater the public appeasement. Which is why, after losing the Ashes, the call for the resignation of Michael Atherton, the England captain, has suddenly gathered pace again, despite yesterday's vote of confidence from the chairman of selectors, David Graveney.

Speaking in the aftermath of England's fifth successive defeat in an Ashes series, Graveney said: "I think he does a great job for the team and I would be happy for him to be captain this winter."

If this does not quite square with the "Atherton offers to quit" rumours that surfaced midway through the Trent Bridge Test, it is still a ringing endorsement and one that suggests that if Atherton is to go he will have to fall rather than be pushed.

However, with both the Ashes - Atherton's number one quest as captain - and the series definitely gone, he will spend the next few days, probably with his fishing rod or company, thinking long and hard about seeing his Test career cut in the ranks.

Cricket should give him a lot and many will want him to stay on simply for the dearth of obvious successors. Yet he has given just as much to cricket - a record 45 tests as England captain for one - and should feel no obligation on that front. He has long been his own man and that should not change now.

If a cool head not a warm heart are applied then Atherton should step down after The Oval, though he may choose to do so beforehand. Not because

of his captaincy, which has always been considered and thorough, but for his own wellbeing, which is beginning to suffer. The grey hairs and worry lines may be absent, but his four-year stint as captain probably seems like 10.

As a game, cricket should only assume any kind of importance when it is being played. Before he became captain Atherton realised that, it was only afterwards, as Graham Gooch's successor, that the distinction became blurred.

Leaders, even ones as natural as Atherton (and he is a natural, though not aggressively so), can only soak up so much before the pressure, expectation and blame - especially the blame - wear them down. Every man has a saturation point and

tough though his Lancastrian skin has been since he took over the job, it is not bulletproof.

It is a curious vocation and nowhere is a sporting leader more exposed than on a cricket field, which makes captaining England the toughest, most thankless job going - unless you happen to win.

In a game riven with flaws and faults is it not potentially unfair that one man should carry the can to such an extent? Cricket can be a team game, but most of the important decisions during play are taken by individual players, with the captain playing only the broadest of roles.

Power inevitably changes a man, a fact lost on many of the job's previous incumbents, such as David Gower and Ian Botham.

try should be motivation enough and it should come from within.

His fierce loyalty towards his team has made him a popular captain, albeit one with an almost anonymous public profile. He has never courted the limelight, wanting little more than the respect and friendship of those he plays with and against.

Obvious successors are thin on the ground. If he does go before the next Test, Nasser Hussain, his vice-captain last winter, should be offered the job. He may be prone to the odd bout of hot bloodedness, but as England's most successful batsman this summer he is guaranteed a place in the side, which Adam Hollioake is not.

As England's most technically adept batsman - though one increasingly compromised by a

chronically bad back - Atherton has much still to offer, not least courage under fire which, with a West Indies tour imminent, will be crucial to England's chances of success.

After Australia, the West Indies are the team he would most like to win a series against. Which is why, particularly following Graveney's endorsement, he may be tempted into having one last fling at the controls.

If he is, he should not stay to fulfil a debt of gratitude or because the selectors want him to, but only if he feels he and his team can move forward with optimism and confidence. After another Ashes drubbing, it is surely too much to ask even of "Iron Mike".

More cricket, page 25

Berg makes £5m move to United

Football
ALAN NIXON

Henning Berg joined Manchester United in a £5m deal yesterday, taking the road from Blackburn Rovers that has been blocked in the past.

Jack Walker, the Blackburn owner, had stopped a previous bid from United and was also behind the acrimonious negotiations that diverted Alan Shearer to Newcastle rather than Manchester when he was moved out for a record £15m. However, Roy Hodgson, the Rovers manager, feels he has enough cover to sell Berg and invest in other areas.

Berg's arrival ends Ferguson's long search for a new centre-back. He was turned down by Markus Babbel from Bayern Munich and failed to get a work permit for the Brazilian, Celio Silva. An inquiry for West Ham's Rio Ferdinand was also

rebuffed, while the Chilean Dante Poli returned home after a trial at Old Trafford.

The versatile Berg can also play right-back, but wants to be a central defender, the position he occupies for Norway. However, his registration came too late for him to play in tomorrow's game against Southampton at Old Trafford.

Berg, who has won 44 caps for Norway, lost his place in the Blackburn line-up after the arrivals of Stéphane Henchoz and Patrick Valery in the summer. However, there was disappointment for United yesterday with the news that Andy Cole's opening-day jinx has struck again. The striker has had surgery on an abscess in his calf and will probably not play until the end of the month.

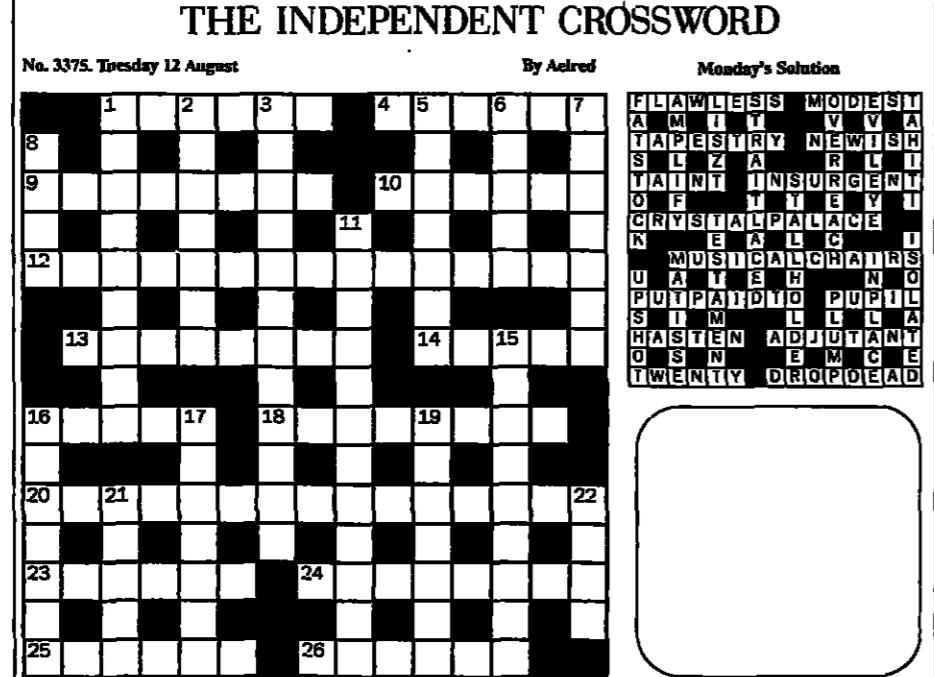
Everton are lining up the £1.5m signing of the Republic of Ireland international goalkeeper Alan Kelly from Sheffield United, who have

signed the former Manchester City keeper Andy Dibble on a short-term deal.

Manchester City are hoping to sign Crystal Palace's young winger Tony Scully for £1m this week. The Republic of Ireland Under-21 player has been allowed to leave Palace and City want to move quickly. City are willing to pay around £300,000 immediately with the rest of the money based on appearances.

Ian Pearce will be the next player to leave Blackburn Rovers, with a £1.5m move to Crystal Palace lined up last night. The centre-back will decide on his future in the next 24 hours. Another possible arrival at Selhurst Park is Neil Embell, the Wolves midfielder, is about to become the most expensive player ever to leave Molineux.

Embell, who was signed by Graham Taylor from Millwall for £750,000 in 1994, is having talks with Crystal Palace over personal terms prior to a £2m move.

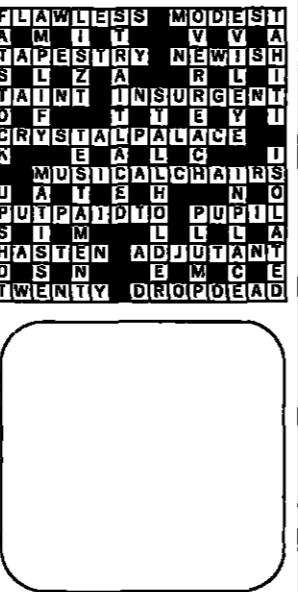
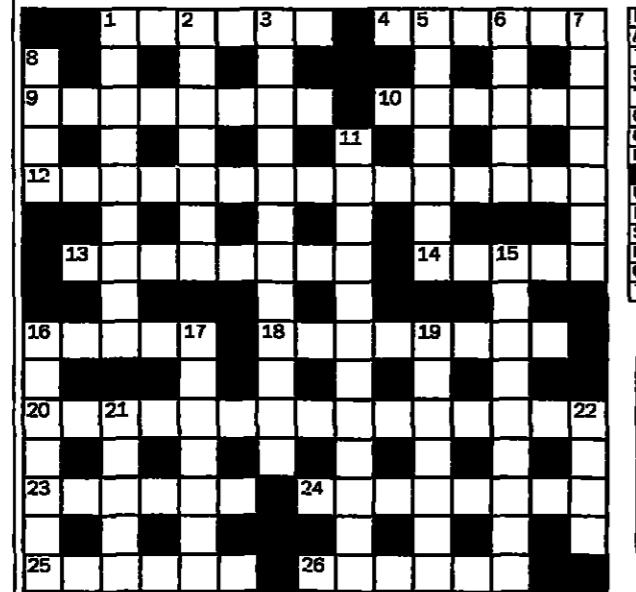


THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3375, Tuesday 12 August

By Aledred

Munday's Solution



ACROSS

- Bar put in place all of a sudden (6)
- Make allowance for bad group (6)
- I'm willing to participate in a shout of bitterness (8)
- Nerve cell registers particle, taking no time (6)
- Such characters are comprehensible if unintelligent (7-8)
- Shoots group of animals which might interest archaeologist (8)
- Face heartless man, hot and sweaty (5)
- Dislike having to suppress second expedition (5)
- Band playing in foyer is

an infringement of the rules (8)

- Breeding fish-eating birds? You can get over it (7,8)
- As expected in English and not bad in French (6)
- Insufficient legislation for him? Quite the reverse (8)
- Making light of what's certainly a filthy place (6)
- Wis of turbulent priest (6)
- A ball in court is hit with savagery (9)
- What's left mother in control? (7)
- Colourful type of memory, the result of drink? (4,8)

DOWN

- Grass in Foreign Office gets made a release (7)
- Advance includes credit to get clean (5)
- Attempt to keep woman in leather works (7)
- Enthusiastic hostility by Frenchman (4)
- We'd sound bells when exchanging these? (7,5)
- One very taken in by brave flirt (9)
- The result of grass growing round Pennsylvania is of little worth (7)
- Charm of French antiquities (7)
- Dirty woman in pub (7)
- Insect form found right in volcanic eruption (5)
- Number of spectators seeing wicket? (4,8)



Red Devil's delight: Henning Berg takes in his new surroundings at Old Trafford yesterday after the defender signed for Manchester United in a £5m move from Blackburn Rovers

More football, page 26; photograph: Allsport

Bath and Cardiff target Townsend

Rugby Union
ANDREW BALDOCK

Gregor Townsend, the Scotland and Lions stand-off, is the subject of transfer offers from two of the game's biggest clubs, Bath and Cardiff.

Townsend has already discussed a possible six-figure move from Northampton to the Recreation Ground, while a meeting with Cardiff officials was planned for later yesterday.

Given the registration deadline for this season's Heineken European Cup, both clubs will expect a decision by the end of this week.

Bath's assistant coach, Clive Woodward, said: "It would be absolutely brilliant to have a

player of Gregor's calibre on board."

Townsend played in both the Lions' memorable Test victories over the world champions, South Africa, during the summer but was then injured and allowed his prospective Bath team-mate Mike Catt a Test place in Johannesburg. The 24-year-old Scot has won more than 20 caps for his country, displaying rich qualities as both a stand-off and centre.

He broke into the Scotland B team as a teenager, going on to make his full Scotland international debut against England as a replacement in 1993.

"We are gaining more and more experience in the transfer market and we are not afraid to pay good money," he said. "But the bottom line is we want players who are totally committed to this club, players who have the necessary desire."

At this stage it is not definite

If Townsend opts to join Bath it would give the club an embarrassment of riches in midfield. The England international trio of Catt, Jeremy Guscott and Phil de Glanville

are the men with whom Townsend would have to compete for a place.

Woodward added: "It would be a great problem to have and I would rather be in that position than not. When a quality player comes into the equation and we think there is a need to strengthen our squad in that area, then we are bound to be interested."

However, Swift confirmed that they have also been in touch with the Western Samoan wing Brian Lima, who is currently under contract with the reigning Super 12 champions, Auckland. Swift said Lima's transfer would involve a "small transfer fee".

"Like Gregor, for Brian to play in the European Cup we would require a decision fairly quickly," he said.

This time the gloves are on.

The Semi-Final of the Northwest Trophy is no time for half measures. Not when the winners get a trip to Lord's and the losers need a trip to Lourdes.

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